



Thursday, November 10, 2016

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GRITTER SERVICE NOW ON THIN ICE

Report by Richard Guttridge

THE number of gritting lorries taking to the roads in the Dudley borough this winter could be cut to save money.

Gritting services will be reviewed, with cash-strapped Dudley Council aiming to save more than £100,000 over the next three years.

Further cost-cutting measures have been revealed by the council, which needs to save £25 million by 2020.

These include closing public toilets which are underused or in a poor state of repair and dimming street lights on residential roads.

Council staff could also be forced to take five days of additional unpaid leave each year, at a time to be decided by their bosses.

This comes on top of more job losses announced at the council, which blames reduced Government funding for its cuts.

The measures are included in the council's budget proposals for the next financial year.

Bosses have also said they will consider increasing burial fees as well as hiking charges on its car parks.

As the first frosts of November hit roads this week, one of the most controversial measures proposed by the local authority is a review of its winter service provision. Bosses said major roads would continue to be gritted but they needed to ensure the service was providing value for money.

Technology

Gritting lorries and bins, which are provided to households, would be 'rationalised' under the plans which would save £105,000.

Highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said improvements in technology meant the borough no longer needed lorries covering every inch of the borough.

She said: "People don't need to worry about the gritting service. We employ an awful lot of technology now which knows when and where we should be gritting. We don't do a blanket grit anymore. Those days are gone. The lorries know where to grit and that's where the savings will come from."

Street lights could be dimmed to 60 per cent power between 11am and 5am, a move the council says could save almost £300,000.

Finance bosses have said they need to deliver savings wherever possible in order to achieve its saving target. The latest cost-cutting measures come on top of previous announcements about the closure of the Dudley Art Gallery and Museum building, while a controversial plan to axe school crossing patrols is currently out for consultation (see page 5).

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before."

• More job losses – page 4

GADGET SHOW TOY SPECIAL GOES TO SCHOOL



Presenter Jason Bradbury, who was filming with pupils playing with Christmas toys, at Lapal Primary School, Halesowen

CHRISTMAS came early for pupils at a Halesowen school when the Gadget Show team turned up with a haul of goodies for them to try.

Youngsters from Lapal Primary School on Priory Road were filmed playing with the toys alongside presenter Jason Bradbury and his team for the Christmas special.

The show previews and reviews the latest gadgets.

Amidst a huge array of toys were Furby, Barbie drones, Pokemon gadgets, Nerf toys and also a Skylander video game.

Joanna Turner, headteacher, said: "Jason and his team turned our school hall into a Christmas wonderland with Father Christmas himself coming to visit and bringing all the latest gadgets."

"The children, aged between six and eight, played with the latest toys so the team could get their thoughts and opinions on what's cool and what they think about them."

"It was lovely to see the children being allowed to investigate and play with some of the latest toys that are set to be some of the best presents for children this Christmas."

"The presents and team sat down and played with all the toys next to all the pupils. They loved playing with everything. It was really great to see them working out how the latest gadgets work."

The pupils favoured The Razor Crazy Cart Shift, a mini go-kart designed for younger drivers that allows children to drift and spin at safe speeds. Prices for the Razor Cart started from £220.

The Christmas episode of The Gadget Show featuring the Halesowen pupils will air on Channel 5 on December 16.

FATALITY

Motorist is killed in crash on major route

A MOTORIST was killed following a crash on a major route from the Black Country into Birmingham on Monday morning.

The man died in an accident on the Quinton Expressway in the early hours. The crash happened between junction three of the M5 and the Quinton island. No other cars were involved.

Paramedics arrived to find the car on fire and the driver could not be saved.

The A456 Quinton Expressway, which joins onto Manor Way, Halesowen, was closed until 10am as an investigation into the crash was launched.

FRAUDSTER

Warning over bogus council worker con

A WARNING has been issued after a 95-year-old was targeted by a caller pretending to be a council worker.

The fraudster tried to con the elderly resident on Grace Road, in Tipton, on Monday. The conman was male, in his 40s and he was wearing dark overalls.

Councillor Preet Gill, of Sandwell Council, said: "Council officials don't turn up without making a prior appointment. Our advice is not to open the door to people you don't know and to ask people to show ID."

DEVELOPMENT

Tycoon plans new patients' car park

A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE developer who founded Merry Hill shopping centre wants to build a low-cost public car park opposite Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Property tycoon Roy Richardson has revealed he is considering building a car park on land he owns off the A4101 High Street – opposite the hospital.

The wealthy businessman, whose family is reported to be worth £450 million, said the site would either be free or have low charges in comparison with the hospital.

The proposals could cause friction with hospital bosses, given that the car park would be in direct competition.

INSIDE

MASTERCLASS WITH SIR LENNY



PAGE 3



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MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	8 & 14
LIFESTYLE	16
THE FAST TICKET	17
PROPERTY	25
MOTORING	32
SPORT	35 & 36
CONTACT US	

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Hafiz Rahman – paedophile

A RELIGIOUS leader who went on the run after being found guilty of indecently assaulting two young girls at his mosque has been sentenced to 11-and-a-half years behind bars in his absence.

Hafiz Rahman, 58, was convicted of five charges on October 7 in his absence, claiming he was too ill to attend court. But he fled the country to Bangladesh the following day.

Police are working with officers in that country to try to track him down.

Rahman, had been working at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath in the 1980s

when the abuse took place. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he assaulted two girls at the mosque, where they had gone for religious instruction. The victims were aged under 10 at the time.

Sentencing Rahman, Judge Nicholas Cartwright said: "There was no need to be suspicious that he would not attend his sentencing hearing so no warrant was issued for his arrest after he was convicted."

The judge said the first victim was touched in the chest area through clothes and he touched her thigh.

"He stopped when she told her mother. She has largely buried this abuse," he said.

"His other victim was abused in a more serious way."

"There is clear evidence that her ability to forge relationships has been blighted, and she finds it especially difficult to enjoy the intimacy of an adult relationship."

One of the sex offender's victims said after the sentencing: "I am pleased with the sentencing. For me, this is over now."

"I just hope the police can get him back here."

Drunk started fire at his ex-girlfriend's flat

A DRUNKARD whose life had been destroyed by booze started a fire at the home of his former partner, a judge heard.

Robert Gordon lost his job and 35-year marriage as a result of his drinking, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

His four-year relationship with Lisa White had also hit the rocks, revealed Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Months after that break up, the 62-year-old called at her flat in Sydney Road, Cradley Heath, and was allowed to stay until he could find permanent accommodation.

On March 15, Ms White left the living room to prepare some food for him and returned to find the floor on fire.

Gordon, who had been drinking heavily, told her: "I am going to burn you out."

Mr Searle said: "He suggested that he had lost everything because of her and now she was going to lose everything too."

Firefighters

A cushion was set alight and the blaze spread to a chair. The flames were quickly extinguished by firefighters but the property suffered smoke damage.

Gordon and his ex-partner were treated for smoke inhalation.

She later told police: "There was no reason for him to do this. We had not been arguing or anything like that."

Mr Simon Warlock, defending, told the court: "He has little memory of what happened but knows that alcohol is the root cause of his problems.

"He had been drinking heavily and did something exceedingly stupid. He knows he cannot go back to drinking again. It explains the ending of a 35-year marriage and the fact that his two daughters, who he cares for very much, have not spoken to him for a few years.

"The seven months he has spent in custody waiting for this case to be resolved has given him time to think."

Gordon, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to committing arson when reckless as to whether life was endangered.

He was jailed for 18 months and banned from having contact with his former partner.

Chelsea is made up over award



Award-winning make up artist Chelsea Moore, 18, wowed judges at the Midlands Fashion Awards in Birmingham

A TALENTED graduate from Dudley is made up over a top fashion award that promises to be the foundation of a successful career as a make-up artist.

Chelsea Moore has been named Midlands Make Up Artist of the year at the Midlands Fashion Awards.

The awards ceremony was held at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Centre.

The 18-year-old qualified with an IMA Degree from the Central

School of Make-Up in Birmingham in February and is now balancing full-time work as an administrator with self-employed make-up work.

Chelsea said: "I was looking for new opportunities and came across the awards so I put myself forward."

"We had to do makeup on a few different models that were going down the catwalk. We were marked down the hygiene of our kit, the range of makeup we had, how we spoke to people and presented ourselves and the final overall look."

She added: "It's a big achievement and I'm really overwhelmed by it, I wasn't expecting it at all."

"It's going to open so many opportunities so it's made me really happy and made me believe in my own work."

Chelsea Moore, Chelsea's mother, said: "I'm really proud of her, it brought me to tears. She's come a long way with her work in such a small space of time."

The finalists were judged by a panel of industry professionals.

Questions over how sex offender was able to flee

A CHILDREN'S charity has questioned border controls after a Black Country mosque's Imam, who was convicted for abusing two young girls, was able to flee the country.

The NSPCC has hit out after Hafiz Rahman, of Ballard Road, Netherton, fled to Bangladesh after being convicted of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 58-year-old claimed he was too ill to attend court and was convicted in his absence. The following day he flew to Bangladesh and has since been given a jail sentence in his absence (see left).

West Midlands Police said Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh on October 8, after officers had visited him at his home to ensure he complied with bail conditions. His name was also placed on the Police National Computer, advising officers should be alerted if he attempted to flee the UK.

An NSPCC spokesman said: "Rahman used the trust and authority he commanded as an Imam to abuse two vulnerable young girls. These girls would have gone to the mosque believing they would be safe, but instead Rahman subjected them to appalling attacks."

"Even worse, he made his victims endure the trauma of a crown court trial by denying the offences, and has now fled the country. Questions clearly need to be answered as to how and why he managed to leave the country."

A police spokesman said: "The police are not responsible for border checks so we cannot comment."

Firm's takeover is start of a new era

A STOURBRIDGE company making extraction systems has been taken over by the Telford-based Filtermist group.

Multi Fan Systems, based at Wassell Grove Business Centre, has made ventilation and extraction systems for the likes of the University of Birmingham and Ricoh Products. Multi Fan Systems managing director David Fall will be retiring from the business, while fellow sales director Kevin Hood and contracts director Richard Field will continue to oversee Multi Fan contracts alongside the existing team of employees.

Mr Hood said: "The agreement with Filtermist marks the start of a new chapter for Multi Fan Systems. We are confident that this new agreement will benefit both our employees and our customers."

Anastacia has a Brum concert date

AMERICAN singer Anastacia has announced a tour next year including a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on May 28.

The Left Outside Alone singer was recently voted off BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing.

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Children in harmony on BBC charity appeal night

THE BBC Children in Need's appeal show next Friday will see the return of the UK-wide Children's Choir, which will include Dudley and Sandwell schoolchildren singing at the Black Country Living Museum.

The BBC Children in Need Appeal on November 18 will see Graham Norton, Tess Daly, Greg James, Ade Adepitan, Rochelle Humes and Marvin Humes host the TV extravaganza.

They will be joined by around 1,500 singing children from across the UK for a live performance of Lean on Me by Bill Withers.

This will be the sixth year that the Children's Choir has performed. Last year the choir sang Miley Cyrus' The Climb and in previous years they've sung Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water, as well as the Pretenders power ballad I'll Stand By You.

One of the filming locations is the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road. That's where more than 180 children will perform. The pupils are from the following schools: in the choir made up of children from Jessons Primary, Tipton Green Junior, Kings Heath Primary, Mansfield Green Primary, Niksham School, Tiverton School, Water Mill School, Westminster Primary School.

All the schools have started their rehearsals ready for their live performance during the appeal show.

BBC Children in Need currently funds 137 projects across the West Midlands with funding of more than £7.2 million in the region.

Work on detail of Hippodrome deal

CAMPAIGNERS behind a rescue deal for Dudley Hippodrome have said they are taking time to finalise the agreement to make sure it is 'absolutely right'.

There has been a delay in handing over the keys to the famous building to the Black Country Hippodrome group but members say they are just waiting for some final points to be resolved with Dudley Council. Group chairman Paul Collins said: 'We are taking all this time and care to get the lease right to ensure that we have the theatre on terms that will allow us to commission the reports and raise the funds needed to restore it.'

The group needs to raise £5 million to refurbish the building to become a venue again.

Homes proposed for haulage site

SEVEN homes are proposed to be built on the former site of a Halesowen haulage firm. An application for the homes at Narrow Lane, on land previously occupied by W Morris and Son, has been submitted to planners.

We shall remember them at services



Wreaths being laid in the Black Country

BRITAIN will fall silent once again at 11am on November 11 in honour of servicemen and women who gave their lives for their country during two world wars and other conflicts.

Royal British Legions have been preparing for the services and people will be invited to gather in town centres and around cenotaphs to pay tribute.

Events will take place on Remembrance Day on Friday, November 11 as well as on Sunday, November 13. People can observe the silence and attend cenotaphs on the 11th day of the

11th month, while parades and longer services will be held two days later.

Dudley events include:

Priory Street, Dudley, November 11 – Veterans join council staff, councillors and residents at the Clock Tower in Priory Street from 11am, includes the laying of wreaths and a two minute silence.

Ednam Road, Dudley, November 13

– A service at the cenotaph in Ednam Road at 10.40am. A parade will pass from Vicar Street at 10.30am, along High Street, Stone Street, Priory Street, Priory Road to the cenotaph.

St James' Church, Gornal, November 13 – A parade and band will leave Gornal British Legion on Rutton Street at 10.55am to the memorial hall by St James' Church.

St Peter's Church, Cradley, November 13 – A parade will leave Cradley Community Centre in Colley Lane at 1.15pm for the Cenotaph at St Peter's Church.

Also, in Sandwell, Powke Lane Cemetery, Rowley Regis, November 13 – Mayor Julie Webb will attend. The parade starts at 10.25am from Highgate Street car park, Old Hill.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Road is one-way over two weeks

A BUSY Black Country commuter route will be one-way for nearly two weeks.

Dudley Road will be one-way on weekdays from today (Thursday) to November 23.

Diversions will be in place via Sedgley Road West, Sedgley Road and Birmingham New Road.

Roadworks have had an impact on the area since summer.

Advice day for potential authors

ASPIRING writers can get advice and guidance at an event at Dudley Library later this month.

Dudley Library will be hosting a questions and answers session with a panel of published authors and poets on Saturday, November 26.

They will be talking about the writing process and answering questions on working with publishers and agents from 10.30am until 1pm.

To book your free ticket call (01384) 815560, email libraries@dudley.gov.uk or enquire at the library in St James's Road.

Historian leaves no stone unturned

THE Black Country Society are hosting a lecture which looks at burial places of the famous and infamous.

The lecture, 'Leave No Stone Unturned', will take place at the Black Country Living Museum.

Travelling from East Anglia will be historian John Vigar, a successful author, broadcaster and popular tour guide with over 40 years of experience.

The lecture takes place on Wednesday November 23 with tickets priced at £2.

Bishop's third date as tickets snapped up

LIVERPOOLIAN comedian John Bishop has added a third Birmingham arena date to his Winging It tour next year.

He had already announced shows at the Barclaycard Arena on November 10 and 11.

He will now also be appearing there on November 12. Tickets range from £28.93 to £45.24.

His tour also due to visit Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 7 next year.

Run for the Legion

A RUNNING club will take part in a poppy run in support of The Royal British Legion.

Sedgley Striders will set off from The Three Crowns pub, on Dovedale Road, in the Ettingshall Park area of Wolverhampton, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm.

Council not responsible for pupils' road safety

COUNCIL bosses say they are consulting with schools across Dudley borough on the future of lollipop wardens.

The move comes in Dudley as a petition to keep them continues to gather support.

The service is currently funded by Dudley Council but is set to get its funding axed because the council claim they can no longer afford to pay for it.

The council blamed budget cuts imposed upon them by a reduction in Government funding.

The council has no legal duty to fund the crossing patrols and suggests that schools could fund them instead.

But more than 490 people have signed a petition to try to save the patrols and many claims schools do not have enough money to pay for them.

However, the council argues that the consultation will give schools a greater say in how they want the service to run.

Under proposals, which sees the council aiming to save £395,000, schools would fund the patrols which serve their pupils and the council would maintain the operation of the service.

But of the 123 schools invited to participate in the consultation as part of the review, as of last week only 23 had responded. The consultation closes this week.

Defended

Councillor Hilary Bills, the council's cabinet member for environmental services, has defended the authority's move.

'The decision to review the school crossing patrol service has not been taken lightly,' she said.

'With national government continuing to reduce funding, it is inevitable that there will be an impact on how this and other key services can be delivered in the future.'

'I know there have been some concerns raised by schools and parents but ultimately I would remind people that it is a parent's or guardian's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely. The council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service.'

'As a responsible authority we will always take the safety of children very seriously. We have invested heavily in safer routes to schools which include fixed pedestrian crossing points with other measures. Drivers have a responsibility to take extra care at these locations.'

Sir Lenny shares acting skills



Sir Lenny Henry working with pupils at Shenley Academy in Northfield, Birmingham, on their drama skills

BLACK Country comedy legend Sir Lenny Henry dropped into a secondary school to inspire the next generation of performers.

The Dudley-born actor and comic took part in a Q&A session with pupils in Birmingham. He led students in a re-enactment of the dance from Michael Jackson's Thriller, before giving a speech about Othello and his love for Shakespeare.

Sir Lenny discussed his first

theatre trip to Birmingham with his family. The Comic Relief co-founder said: 'My mum was very hard-working and once a year she took us to watch a panto – the first one I saw was at the Alexandra in Birmingham.'

Generation

He told the audience of youngsters at Shenley Academy that the current generation have access to

more opportunities to get involved with the arts at a young age – and urged them to take advantage. He added: 'I think the best art is probably the art you make yourself – learning how to make up your own plays, learning how to improvise and do something you can be proud of.'

Sir Lenny was launching a National Theatre project to broadcast live productions from the London theatre for school audiences.

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OUR changing language. I've lost count this week of the number of times radio and TV commentators have told us that the gap between Clinton and Trump is "tightening." A spanner tightens; gaps narrow.

ONLY a few years ago, we were assured that eating eggs caused high cholesterol and clogged your arteries. Then we were told the reason was nonsense. And this week we are told that a review of 300,000 patients suggests an egg a day keeps strokes at bay. A moment's silence, please, for those who put their faith in the experts, stopped eating eggs and died of strokes.

DO you detect the sickly whiff of hypocrisy? Home Secretary Amber Rudd rules out a full inquiry into the 1984 Battle of Orgreave and some Labour politicians cry shame. Yet Labour was in power for 13 years. They had plenty of time to hold an inquiry. So why didn't they?



WE may not need a full-blown, lawyer-fest inquiry but Orgreave should be remembered and re-examined, if only to separate fact from propaganda. For a start, Orgreave was not a popular, class-war uprising against the despised Margaret Thatcher that dozens of Leftie websites suggest.

Thatcher was actually very popular in the 1980s. The year before Orgreave she led the Tories to a landslide election victory with a huge majority of 144 seats. Three years after Orgreave she won her third general election with another massive majority. Although many Brits had sympathy for the miners, there were bitter memories of the Three Day Week caused by the miners' strike of 1974. On the day itself, before the police perjury and evidence-tampering began, most folk supported the force's action. Victory for the police in the Battle of Orgreave may have been ugly but defeat was unthinkable.

CONTINUING the recent theme of inflation, a reader on a pension calculates that, in order to buy the house he has occupied for 49 years today, he would have to be a first-time buyer earning £60,000 a year.

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Robbers who wielded a fake gun are locked up

A GROUP of thieves who used an imitation firearm to target four shops in one evening have been put behind bars.

Lee Cartwright, 25, from Brompton Road, Brierley Hill, Wesley Bristow, 27, from Church Road, Stourbridge, and a teenager who cannot be named for legal reasons, attempted to steal from four shops in the Brierley Hill area on the evening of September 27 last year.

By Jordan Harris

At Kingsway Stores in Stourbridge, they got away with an amount of cigarettes and cigarette papers.

"Their final stop was at the Rock Fryer in Brierley Hill, a fish and chip shop where again they asked a member of staff to hand over money. When one of the group attempted to grab the till, they became involved in an altercation with the manager, before running out of the shop."

Police later found the Peugeot car, used to travel between shops, containing the cigarettes and papers.

The three were jointly charged with three counts of attempted robbery, one count of robbery and four counts of possessing an imitation firearm when committing an offence.

Each pleaded guilty, with Cartwright given a six year sentence, Bristow jailed for six years and four months and the teenager given a four years and six month sentence.

Hello bab, welcome to the zoo



A baby baboon is the latest arrival at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo are welcoming a new addition to their baboon family.

The zoo's third gelada baboon baby was born on October 19 to first-time mum, nine-year-old Jimma and dad, Ebano, aged 11, at the Castle Hill attraction.

Keepers are busy trying to determine the gender of the youngster and will begin brainstorming ideas for a name.

Gelada gestation is usually around six months and mothers will carry the baby on their stomach for the first few weeks, before transferring it to their back. The youngster will begin to gain more independence around five-months-old.

Jade Reddall, primate keeper, said: "Jimma is doing a fantastic job nursing and carrying the newborn and after helping Addis and Tana care for Billie and Ambo for the last two years, she will have picked up a thing or two."

"Dad is also being protective over his youngest offspring and the baby seems very alert. We've even spotted Billie and Ambo both grooming the little one, so they're all doing the right things and we're all excited with the newest addition."

A second chance for dishonest brothers

TWINS found with stolen goods in Stourbridge have avoided being locked up because of their age.

Police found thousands of pounds worth of stolen property at the home of Ramarr and Ramone Treleven, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The goods had been taken during burglaries close to their address in Baylie Court, Green Road, explaining Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The haul, valued at more than £4,000, included jewellery, mobile phones, bicycles and games consoles stolen between July 8 and September 16. A leather wallet found at the 20-year-olds' home was linked to one of the burglaries.

There was no proof that the brothers were responsible for the burglaries but both admitted six charges of handling stolen property.

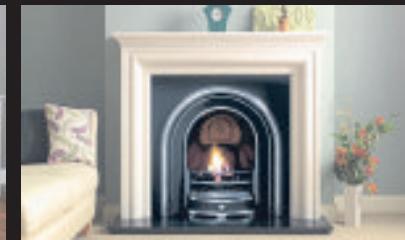
Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "The property had been bought by them. They knew it had not been legitimately obtained."

Judge James Burbidge QC told them: "Because you are young, pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and have served a few weeks in custody while waiting for the case to be settled, I will suspend the sentence. I am giving you a chance to avoid a life of crime." They were each given an eight months detention, suspended for two years and ordered to do 100 hours unpaid work.

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Further job losses and service cuts

MORE than 100 jobs will go at Dudley Council during the next financial year – but the council tax will still rise by nearly four per cent, it has been announced.

A total of 110 roles will be axed at the cash-strapped council, bosses said as they revealed their budget proposals for the 2016/17 financial year.

It means that the jobs cut will continue at the authority, which has already axed around 150 staff over the last two years. Another 60 posts are due to go by 2020.

Chefs have also revealed that they are proposing to increase the council tax by 3.99 per cent, the maximum rise allowed without triggering a local referendum.

The move is expected to bring in £4 million for the council, which must at the same time save £25m over the next three years.

This will mean a wave of cuts and increased charges with parking fees set to rise across council-run car parks, burial fees likely to rise and the council to halt its funding for school crossing patrol wardens.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe said: "These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before."

Sandwell Mayor to light up Cradley Heath

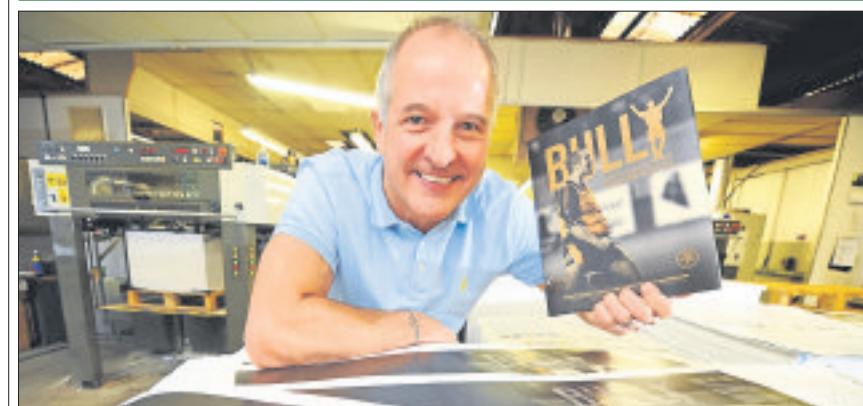
MAYOR of Sandwell Councillor Julie Webb will switch-on the Christmas lights in Cradley Heath High Street on Saturday at 5pm.

Events get under way on the High Street from 3pm, including a festive market and funfair, while Cradley Heath Creative's Oss Box will be decorated as Santa's Grotto.

Events get under way on the High Street from 3pm, including a festive market and funfair, while Cradley Heath Creative's Oss Box will be decorated as Santa's Grotto.

New weekly market switches to Saturday over concerns

Bully opens up about life on and off pitch



Black Country football hero Steve Bull with copies of his book being printed at John Price Limited, Bilston

IT'S one of the famous Black Country stories. A Tipton lad, by the name of Stephen George Bull went, in the space of a few years, from working in a builders' yard to being in the England squad that reached the World Cup semi final.

And now the Wolves legend and record goalscorer is telling all about his remarkable career in a new book, Bully: Forever Wolves includes untold

tales and unseen pictures from his three decades at Molineux.

The current Wolves vice-president, who scored 306 goals in gold and black, joined Wolves in November 1986 and the book will be launched on November 16 to coincide with the anniversary.

Bully tells of how he nearly died on a pre-season tour, how close he came to getting the Wolves manager's job

– and what really happened between him and Gary Lineker.

Bully also tells of how he didn't want to leave West Bromwich Albion, whose ex-manager Ron Saunders famously discarded him, and what it was like swapping the Hawthorns for Molineux.

The book has been produced in association with the Express & Star and Wolves.

A NEW weekly market will launch in Stourbridge town centre after the plans were backed by councillors.

The food and craft market will be held each Saturday on Lower High Street and Coventry Street.

LSD Promotions initially wanted to hold a market on Thursdays in High Street and Market Street, closing off the roads off to traffic. But the company was forced to rethink the proposals following opposition from traders who were concerned about the impact shutting two main streets to traffic would have on businesses.

The company went back to the drawing board and came up with new plans to move the market it already holds twice a month in the town to the pedestrianised Lower High Street and Coventry Street, and to make it a weekly event each Saturday.

Dudley Council's licensing committee gave the revised plans the go-ahead last week.

Boost

Committee member Councillor Michael Evans said the market would be a boost for Stourbridge. He said: "We felt it would be very good for the town. They are a very professional company."

Original plans for the Thursday market were unveiled last year. LSD wanted to have stalls lining High Street and Market Street in a bid to attract more shoppers to the town and offer something different but the chamber of trade voiced concerns.

Speaking following the changes to the original plans, Dermot McGillicuddy, from LSD Promotions, said: "The traders were not opposed to the market but they didn't want High Street closed. We want to get the Saturday market running then maybe look again at the Thursday market."

Warning after schoolgirls are approached

SCHOOLCHILDREN have been warned not to walk alone after a man tried to lure two girls into his car in the Black Country.

The teenagers were approached by a man in a silver Peugeot near Earls High School, Halesowen. They managed to get away and alert teachers.

A letter was sent to parents following the incident at 7.45am on Monday last week advising that children walk in groups. The teenagers were walking to the Furnace Lane school when they were approached by the man.

Assistant head Nigel Ford said the girls "skilfully managed to remove themselves from the situation".

In the letter to parents, Mr Ford said: "We have taken advice from the police and they have asked us to inform parents and carers that it is of the utmost importance, particularly during winter months, that students commute in groups."

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Inmates are leading us all a merry old dance

ALL does not seem to be well in HM Prison Service at the moment.

First of all, we have had the riot at Bedfordshire jail, where two inmates were taken to hospital and the warders retreated to a "safe space" while the lags turned the place upside down, filming the jollity on mobile phones while they were at it.

Then, over at Pentonville nick, two inmates, including a would-be murderer, successfully made a dash for freedom after stuffing their pillows under the bedclothes to make the officers think they were asleep.

Still, nice to see those good old progressive bobs at the Ministry of Justice have got a plan to bring order to the chaos.

They are going to spend £8.4 million giving every jailbird a flat-screen telly, presumably in the belief that the miscreants would all become model citizens if only they were allowed to watch Ed Balls prance about on Strictly Come Dancing in high definition.

Not only that, thousands is being spent on new gym equipment, which will presumably get the lags in shape for the next time they fancy a dust-up on B-wing, or a do a moonlight flit when they get a file in their birthday cake.

One jail has even spent £30,000 employing a hairdresser.

How can it cost 30 grand to give a few old lags a grade two back and sides?

This next question is probably naive in the extreme, and explains why people like me never get anywhere near the justice system, but I'm going to ask it anyway.

Wouldn't it be better value to spend £8.4 million on a few extra prison officers to give the inmates under control?



STAYING with the justice system, former attorney general Dominic Grieve has launched a blistering attack on the tabloid press over its coverage of last week's High Court ruling that could derail Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

Mr Grieve accused some newspapers of demonstrating "fascist" behaviour, and compared their conduct with Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

He does protest too much, me thinks.

After all, I would have thought a panel of judges over-ruled the result of a democratic vote to frustrate the will of voters would be right up Comrade Mugabe's street.



I WON'T pretend I understand the first thing about the latest cyber attack on Tesco bank, which has cleared out several customers' accounts.

But it does highlight once more just how vulnerable the internet is to fraudsters.

And no matter what incentives the banks come up with, nothing convince me to take up internet banking.



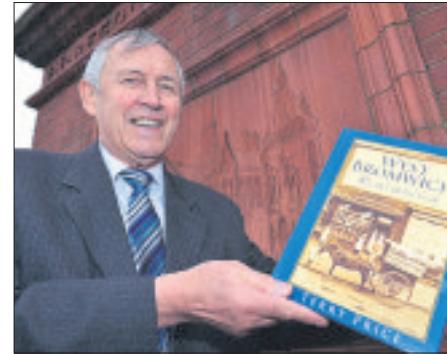
A picture from the 1970s of the infants entrance in Turner Street



The former Guns Village Primary School on Earl Street



Author Terry Price, with one of his West Bromwich books



Truth of school name is in historian's sights

JUDITH HAWKINS speaks to author and historian Terry Price about the potentially much older origins of the Guns Village place name

AFTER controversy over a school's decision to change its name, a historian has spoken to the Express & Star about the true origins of the name 'Guns Village'.

Terry Price is a meticulous researcher in the history of West Bromwich, and has written several books on the town as well as on Great Bridge.

Mr Price says he is disheartened to see the historic name of the Guns Village Primary School go, but highlights that it is a misconception to think it relates to gun manufacturing in the area during the world wars.

In fact, he reveals that the name dates back even further into the past, to the time of Oliver Cromwell.

He said: "A lot of people have said that it is called Guns Village because guns were made in the area, but this just isn't the case. Looking at the old trade directories you can see that gun makers were actually based in other parts of West Bromwich, not there."

Deserter

Mr Price has highlighted a pertinent passage written by Joseph Reeves in his 1836 History of West Bromwich, which reveals the true origins of the name.

It states: "Camp Bank, on West Bromwich common, between the lodge and Cutlers-end, was thrown up by the soldiers under Oliver Cromwell, when they laid siege against Dudley Castle, AD 1644, but this was too far for execution.



The sign seen outside Guns Village Primary School, which could soon be Hanbury Primary

"A regiment of soldiers passing over Bromwich Heath, (some say they were at camp) a court martial was held over a deserter, and he was shot near Cross Guns."

This is a reference to the Cross Guns Inn, where it was said musket ball holes were still visible in the walls right through to the early 1900s.

This pub then underwent its own name change in the 70's to The Marksman, before eventually being converted into a restaurant and supermarket.

"It's sad to see a lot of the old pubs and their old names going – there is a lot of history there," added Mr Price.

Despite this rich history of the area, authorities at Guns Village Primary School have decided to change the name, arguing that it has negative associations with gun crime, as well as causing practical problems such as being blocked by their internal IT systems.

Many parents and local people have fought against the change, including more than 650 people signing a petition.

Nevertheless, from September next year

it is due to become Hanbury Primary. The current site of the school, off Hanbury Road, was also once Hamblet's Blue Brick Works and Quarry.

Taking this into account, Mr Price has his own suggestions for a replacement name, adding: "If the name is to change, a better one would be 'Hamblet's Primary School', I have never heard of 'Hanbury' historically."

"And to solve internet problems, why not call it 'New Guns Village Primary School'?"

One of those who is particularly angry at the school's name change, is former pupil Joyce Clarke, who said: "I think this decision has been made without having any understanding of our culture and our heritage."

On learning that the historical significance of 'guns' goes back much further than she originally thought, Ms Clarke added: "That just means it's even more important."

"It is our heritage and it makes me so angry that somebody is trying to eradicate it."

"Instead we should be teaching our children about the past."

Timeline:

1644 – West Bromwich Common/Heath Cromwell's troops in the Civil War camped in the area when laying siege to Dudley Castle, but was too far for their cannons to reach. A court martial was held over a deserter who was afterwards shot near the Cross Guns Inn. It was said that the holes made by the musket balls were still visible in the wall of the Cross Guns Inn during the early 1900s. The Cross Guns motif or emblem was used by military regiments many years ago.

1771 – Turnpike map of West Bromwich shows the Cross Guns Inn on West Bromwich Heath opposite an unnamed lane without any buildings in it. This is Cross Guns Lane, later known as Guns Lane.

1835 – Trade directory Pigot and Co.'s shows Cross Guns Lane with two traders in it, a boot and shoe maker and a bricklayer.

1836 – Reeves' first history and trade directory shows five pistol makers in West Bromwich, but these were located at Bull Street, Churchfield, New Street, Sandwell Road and Virgins End. There were none in Cross Guns Lane. On the High Street an auctioneer lived at Protector Cottage – a reference to Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector. Also there was a pub on in Wearsby Wood Lane named Oliver Cromwell, and Cromwell Street on the Tanant Estate.

1837 – Woods Map of West Bromwich shows the lane opposite The Cross Guns Inn as 'Snow Hill', neither Guns Lane or Guns Village are shown. It appears therefore that the Guns Village and district name must have come into use around 1840. It's not unusual for lanes, roads, and streets to be named after a nearby pub, as probably this area was. Swan Village and Swan Lane are also named after an Inn, the Swan dating from 1550.

1851 – Guns Village Primitive Methodist Chapel opened – adjacent rooms were used as a school in 1873.

1879 – Guns Village Infants and Junior School, on Earl Street, opened.

1973 – Cross Guns Inn changed name to Marksman, it is now half a restaurant and a half a supermarket.

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Think about it before you criticise elders

HARDLY a week goes by without some reference to the problems caused by the 'baby boomers' taking valuable facilities. This is not just upsetting and unfair but inaccurate.

Ask yourselves, do older people fill our schools until there are not enough places for everyone? No, of course not. Do they seek to take all the jobs? No, they have done their share.

Do they demand social housing to accommodate the kids they had without thinking where they would put them? No, they left school at 15 and started work straight away, saved for about

10 years for a deposit and bought their own.

Do they expect benefits to feed them and pay for mobile phones, etc? No, they paid national insurance all their working lives (about 50 years) in the misguided belief that the money was going to fund a decent pension.

Even the hospitals, when I have visited one, the A&E department is often as full of children as old folks. It's not their fault, it is because GPs are so hard to get to see that worried parents end up in A&E because it is where everyone gets looked at eventually.

Finally the prisons, I have no idea what the average age of the inmates in our overcrowded prisons is, but I would bet it is not 65 plus.

So I say to the media, especially television, think before the term ageing population is used because as far as I know there is no thought being given to what is to happen to all the babies forming the present population explosion, many of whom will never experience work because technology has removed most of it.

RON GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

London will always get the money

WILL there ever be airport expansion?

I've no idea where airports should be expanded and I've the greatest empathy for people who are as also the case with HS2, will have their lives disrupted but please, please if it's going to happen, build one somewhere.

If HS2 will mean that London will be just a whisper away from the Midlands, perhaps Brum Airport should be expanded, linked to the HS2 white elephant and all problems down south overcome?

This would never happen. As with the famous 'Northern Power House' and the 'Greater Brum' project, Westminster politicians can talk the talk but when they are asked to walk the walk, these schemes are always low down the list and London always gets the investment.

That's the way it is folks. The way it will always be.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE

Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bostin' busking for Action Heart charity

OCTOBER 22 saw a group of performers from John Langford's Maverick acoustic night come to the Cosy Café in Churchill precinct in Dudley. Under the banner of the Omma n' Chain Show and Black Country Radio with John's help and the support of Paul and all his staff at the cafe we held a Buskin' For Local Charity day.

On this occasion we decided to support Action Heart Dudley. We all have family members or friends who for one reason or another have heart surgery or related treatment. Action Heart play such an important role in getting individuals back on their feet. John was in fact part of the team that worked on the original concept for the incredible unit at Russells Hall so it was great to use the day to support a movement close to his own heart. I can only thank all the performers, young and old who gave up their time.

A special thanks to James Toft from one of my favourite bands Missing Link for handling the sound all day and to John for using his social media influence to get all the folks on site. Most of all thanks to the people who sat and listened and filled our collection box with their generous donation. The day raised £122.48.

BRIAN DAKIN (BILLY SPAKE MON)
Tividale

Ballet was more like a pantomime

UNFORTUNATELY I missed Leon Burakowski's review of The Tempest ballet however, I did read the letter from Jackie Adams in last week's paper defending the ballet production.

Considering I could not wait to leave at the first interval I think he hit the nail on the head, as my head was thumping from the discordant and physically painful score!

I have been a fan of both traditional and modern ballet and was so looking forward to this new production.

It was more like a pantomime and don't think it will become a classic.

Bless Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, etc, who compose beautiful music to listen too even without their wonderful ballets.

Leon, other members of the audience were leaving in front of me. So you weren't on your own in your opinion!

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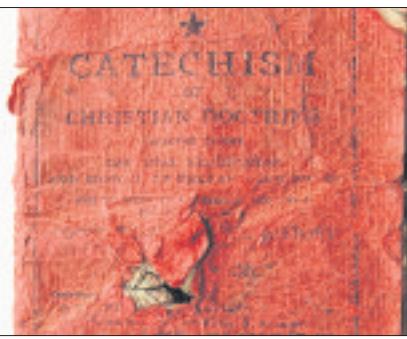
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Private Harris's prayer book with a bullet hole in it



Going over the top - A picture from the trenches during the Battle of the Somme



The family still care for Private Harris's medals for his war service



Edwin Harris photographed in the 1930s, a decade he would not have seen had it not been for the prayer book

How the power of prayer saved a soldier's life

MEMORY LANE

By Luke Bartlett

A BLACK Country man survived being shot by a sniper during the Battle of the Somme – because of a small prayer book in his pocket.

It was September 1916 when Private Edwin Harris from Darlaston stormed German lines with the South Staffordshire Regiment.

After three or four weeks living in muddy, rat-infested conditions near Thiepval, his unit were sent 'over the top' and as they advanced towards the German lines, Private Harris was hit by sniper fire.

A bullet pierced his groin and exited just underneath his ribcage – but the prayer book took some of the potentially deadly momentum out of the projectile.

His colleagues carried him to safety on a stretcher while dodging gunfire.

The story has been told for the first time by Private Harris's son Ray. He remembers being sat down at the age

of 10 by his father who wanted to explain the war wounds on his body.

Ray, who is now 87, said: "Their Sergeant called for them to keep down because there was a German sniper. The sniper had already shot several men. Apparently my dad didn't keep down enough and he was hit."

Pocket
"The bullet went straight through the book in his pocket and then into his groin. Dad heard one of them say 'Good God it's gone right through him'."

Ray, who lives in Kingswinford, explained: "They had to lift him up above the top of the trench and carry him like that. There were places the men couldn't get the stretcher around the corners. He was conscious during all of it. He said there were bullets flying about him."

After the ordeal, all of Private Harris's possessions were sent back to his parents while he recovered. Included was the prayer book that saved his life, a bullet-hole torn right through its core.

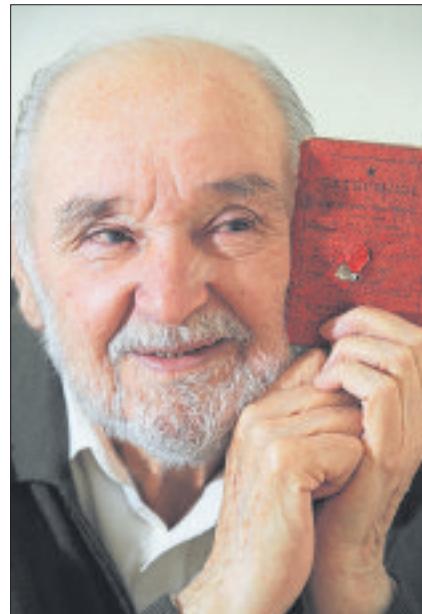
"It's only a little red book, about half an inch thick. It was given to me by his father – my grandfather," said Ray. "The book is still something I look at occasionally. It's stored away in a leather case."

"It's just something that means an awful lot to me."

Lucky enough to make it home, Edwin found himself battling the scars of war – both physical and mental.

"Dad did suffer from the wound for a long time afterwards," Ray said. "As the years went on I think he might have suffered something they call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In those days it was different, they just had to get on with it."

"He ended up as an insurance agent. He was a very ordinary man but it was an extraordinary experience that he went through."



Ray Harris, of Kingswinford, hold the prayer book that saved his father during the Battle of the Somme

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Suspect is named in stabbing murder case



Niron Parker-Lee – suspect is dangerous and should not be approached by the public

POLICE have named a key suspect wanted in connection with a murder in Brierley Hill.

Niron Parker-Lee, 19, from Brierley Hill, is wanted in connection with the death of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood.

A murder probe was launched after Mr Mahmood was found stabbed in the stomach on the High Street at around 4.45pm on October 15, when he staggered bleeding into a shop. Fatally wounded, he later died in hospital.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison, from West Midlands' Police homicide team, said: "It's important we locate Niron Parker-Lee as soon as possible. I would urge anyone with information about his whereabouts to contact us. Someone knows where this man is and I'd remind them that harbouring a wanted man is a criminal offence."

Parker-Lee is described as dangerous and should not be approached by the public. Anyone who can help is urged to contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Any sightings of Niron Parker-Lee should be reported to police immediately by calling 999.

Brothers are jailed over drug offences

TWO drug dealing brothers had over £6,000 worth of cocaine and cannabis along with nearly £6,000 cash at their home when it was raided by police, a judge heard.

There were 19 cannabis plants under cultivation in a bedroom with the help of a hydroponic system to speed growth, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Cocaine valued at almost £4,000 was discovered in the bedroom of 28-year-old music producer Paul Lawrence, along with £2,400 worth of cannabis.

Brother Liam, 27, a refuse collector, had cocaine with a value of £480 in his bedroom with £5,755 cash, said Miss Sally Cairns, prosecuting.

Lists

Police discovered a set of digital scales, a grinder and several dealer lists when they swooped on the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, and a car parked outside on June 20.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending both men, said: "They rue the day that they became involved with drugs.

"These offences were blips in what has been otherwise productive and law abiding lives."

By John Scott

He explained that father-of-one Liam had developed a drug habit a year and a half before the police raid and father-of-four Paul had been threatened over a debt to a drug dealer. He had been issued with the ultimatum of selling drugs for the dealer or facing the consequences.

Both men admitted possession of cocaine with intent. Paul Lawrence further pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis and cultivating it. He was jailed for two-and-a-half years. Liam Lawrence admitted acquiring criminal property and was locked up for 20 months.

Judge Michael Challinor told them: "You are both hard-working men from a good background who had bright futures. Now you are both looking at prison."

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Garden waste bin collections are having a break for the winter.

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For your bin collection dates visit:

www.sandwell.gov.uk/binday

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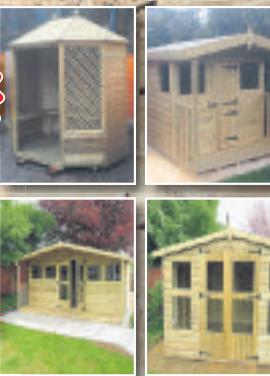
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Mountain of rubbish is finally cleared away

IT has cost £2 million to remove a notorious rubbish heap that once towered 40ft near homes in Brierley Hill.

The mountain of waste has finally been completely cleared after blighting the area for seven years.

The former RDF site off Moor Street has been an infamous eyesore since 2009, after the firm allowed tonnes of waste to mount up.

The dispute over who was responsible went all the way to the High Court and in 2013 RDF company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove the rubbish.

Even after this legal action the gigantic waste heap remained, much to the frustration of residents whose homes overlooked the site. It has now been removed after agreement between the Environment Agency, the council and landowner, which saw the latter pick up the £2 million bill.

Digger

The clear-up was overseen by the Environment Agency, and conducted by contractors Broad Environmental, with the equivalent of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools full of rubbish removed over 10 months.

The final scraps of rubbish were removed by a digger last week, leaving a clear expanse of land and empty warehouse now likely to be used for homes.

Among those at the site on the final day, was Marc Liddeth, environment manager at the Environment Agency.

"This is a fantastic news story for the local community, who have been very supportive and patient while unfortunately we had to deal with this situation and the waste that was here," he said.

"In total there was 25,000 cubic metres of waste and to put that into



Marc Liddeth (right) of the Environment Agency, with Dudley Council's Nick Powell (left) and Alistair Hilditch-Brown from Broad Environmental



The rubbish was piled high and left so long that plants had started to grow on it in context, that's around about the size of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools."

The team from contractors Broad Environmental, who were given the mammoth task, also discovered that there was about 10,000 cubic metres more rubbish than initially thought, meaning that the whole operation has taken even more time.

"The landowner has effectively paid

for the complete removal of this waste from the site, which has meant there has been no expense to the taxpayer. The landowner has had to spend in the region of £2 million," said Mr Liddeth. "This is clearly a strong reminder and warning to landowners out there about the consequences and ultimately the responsibility they have about clearing waste from their land."

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Plan to develop derelict pub site

AN EYESORE pub which has blighted an estate for more than a decade looks set to be knocked down.

The Commercial Inn in Pensnett but has been empty for more than 10 years.

A campaign was launched by fed-up neighbours last year to try the site redeveloped.

A developer has now come forward with proposals to demolish the derelict pub and build nine apartments in its place.

And the plans have been backed by council officers, who have recommended members of the planning committee give the scheme the go-ahead when they meet this week.

Around 1,500 people signed a petition launched by the Corbys Bromley Tenants and Residents Association calling for action over the building.

The pub has become a magnet for vandals. First-floor windows have been smashed and the ground floor boarded up.

Stolen bus chase gang are sent behind bars

THREE men who ignored pursuing police for 12 miles while going for a ride in a stolen bus have been put behind bars.

Named driver John Burton even carried on when two tyres of the single decker were burst by a 'stinger' laid across Penn Road, Wolverhampton, by police.

The vehicle continued on its wheel rims – and even overtook a car – while listlessly and leaving a tell-tail trail of sparks in its wake.

The bus – tailed from the Shropshire border by a police helicopter and patrol cars with flashing lights and sirens – careered through a red traffic light without stopping in Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton. Crown Court heard.

It then went the wrong way round a traffic island, knocked down a road sign, clipped the kerb and tore off part of its bodywork causing £10,000 worth of damaged in a collision with a fence. But still it did not stop, revealing Mr Ian Windridge, prosecuting.

Caught

The Sandwell Travel vehicle finally came to a standstill in The Paddock, Bilston, where the driver and two passengers made a run for it but were quickly caught.

Two men had been seen stealing the bus from the company's base in Tinsley Street, Tipton, on March 30.

The pursuit started at 2.20am the next day – six hours later – when it triggered an automatic number

Appeal to trace teenager after window smashed

POLICE are appealing for information after a lump of concrete was thrown through a house window on Halloween night in Hagley, near Stourbridge.

The incident happened just after 9pm on October 31 at a property in Hawthorn Coppice.

West Mercia Police want to trace a teenage boy who went to the address shortly afterwards. The youth sought is believed to be aged around 16.

Nobody was injured as a result of the incident.

A spokesman for the West Mercia Police said: "We are particularly keen on speaking to a boy, aged approximately 16 years, who went to the property 10 minutes after the incident who may have crucial information."

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101 and quote incident 870S of October 31, 2016. Or information can be provided anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org website.

Donations pouring in for family after crash tragedy

A FUNDRAISING campaign in memory of motorcyclist who died in a road accident in Halesowen has now passed the £6,800 mark.

Donations have flooded in after the online fund was launched following the death of 22-year-old Tom Winters, killed when his motorcycle hit a tree beside Manor Way on October 30.

Mr Winters, from Kidderminster, had recently celebrated the birth of his second child.

An online funding page was

launched by friend Lewis Tisdall and a total of £6,894 had been raised by the start of this week.

Mr Winters' family said they were 'devastated' by his death. He was father to two boys, Freddie, aged three and one-month-old Rupert.

Pledged

Paramedics and passers-by battled to save Mr Winters after the accident but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hundreds have pledged cash after Mr Tisdall, from Kidderminster, set up the JustGiving page.

He said: "Tom was an adored father,

son, husband, brother and friend. Tom touched the lives of many with his kindness, compassion and beautiful humour. He will be missed greatly.

"We are raising money to go to Tom's partner Daisy and two young boys.

"The money will help them with unexpected expenses and will also be used to help the boys have a special Christmas during this traumatic time."

Two ambulances and the Midlands Air Ambulance were called to the scene at Manor Way after the crash happened near the Hagley Road junction at around 9.30am.



Father-of-two Tom Winters

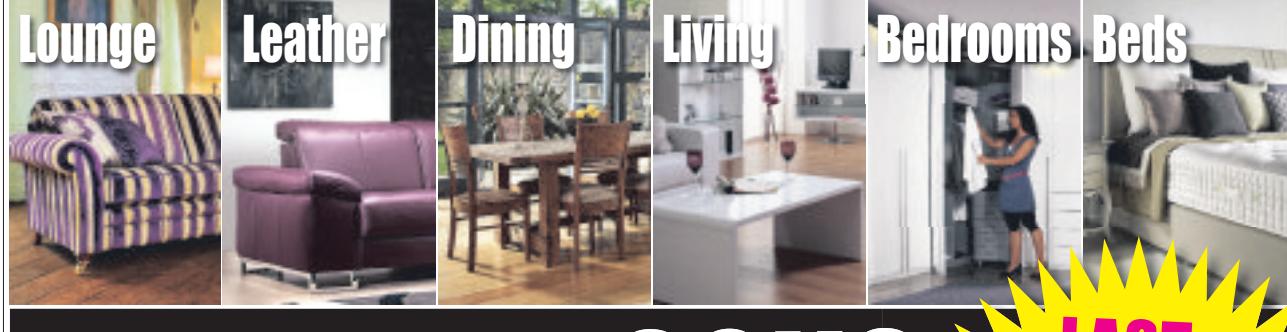
Homelessness bill is backed

AN MP from Dudley has backed a bill to help tackle homelessness during a crucial vote in Parliament.

Mike Wood, MP for Dudley South, joined MPs in backing the Homelessness Reduction Bill at its second reading this week, helping to bring the bill one step closer to becoming law.

Proposed by Bob Blackman MP and supported by homelessness charities including Crisis, the bill could transform the help available to homeless people in the West Midlands and across the country.

Conservative MP Mr Wood said: "This is about social justice – nobody should be forced to sleep rough because they can't get the help they need. I've personally heard from local constituents who were unable to get help when they became homeless and it's time we took action."



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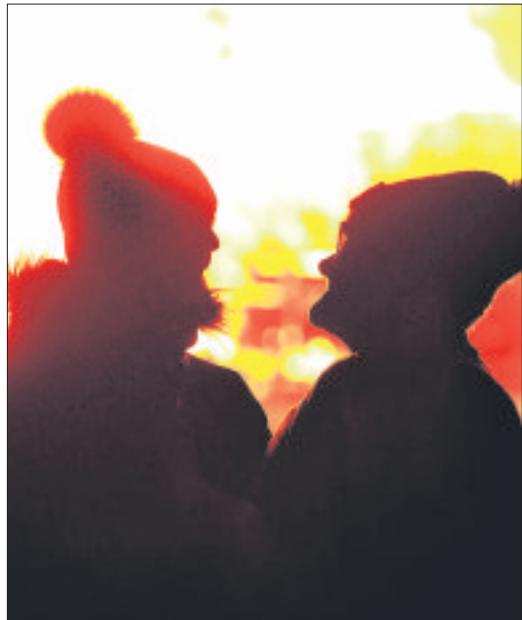
An explosion of colour at the Walsall Arboretum's fireworks display



Emma Hill, aged seven, Jamie Hill, 10, and Chloe Nunnick, seven, from Aldridge



Crowds seen enjoying all the fun of the fair at Walsall Arboretum



A fantastic silhouette of fireworks revellers at Walsall



A youngster captures the flaming bonfire on her mobile phone

Night sparks 350 calls

BONFIRE Night brought double the number of incidents for the West Midlands fire service this year – with over 350 call-outs.

As thousands of people braved the cold on Saturday to catch a glimpse of some of the Black Country's best firework displays, the service reported that they received 356 calls during the evening, up from on 197 the previous year.

However, the majority of the calls were to small secondary, outdoor fires, mostly after

people had lit bonfires on grass. They were also called to instances of smoke going into people's homes.

At Himley Hall, crowds gathered to celebrate the event's 40th year. Its biggest bonfire to date saw more than 1,500 wooden pallets used to build the bonfire and two kilometres of fuse wire was used to electronically spark the impressive fireworks.

Wolverhampton Racecourse's display was led by Signal 107 and compere Dicky Dodd. Whilst in Walsall, the Arboretum was awash with hundreds of sparkling fireworks and the event also featured Britain's Got Talent stars Stavros Flat-

ley and included a music stage. However, the firework display at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, left some visitors disappointed.

The event, which was the busiest in years, allegedly saw some visitors turned away by security who were trying to keep control of the crowds.

Sandwell council released a statement on their Facebook page regarding the event. It said: "We're sorry to hear from people who were disappointed by the bonfire night at Dartmouth Park. It was incredibly busy and we're taking on board your feedback to understand the issues and help us organise future events."



Himley Hall seen during the attraction's big event, which was in its 40th year

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About The Company

Trevor E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors are a long established firm based in Cradley Heath. Formerly known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons the company was established in 1909 and has been serving Cradley Heath, Halesowen and all the surrounding towns and areas since. In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local counsellor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath to focus on the funeral directing side of business. Along with his wife Rose, the local midwife. They became a large part of the local community, with the local saying being "she brings them in to the world, and he takes them out!" Their son William "Bill" Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas, with Bill eventually taking over the business in 1957 after Joe retired. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation.

Trevor inherited J.E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors after his father Bill passed away in 2000. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors. Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2006, followed by his other son Greg in 2010 and finally by his daughter Jodie in 2014.

The family all work together along with a team of long standing and hard working staff. The office staff comprise of former Springfield Post Office manager Mandy Parsons, who looks after the on going funeral arrangements assisted by Jodie, and Kate Davis who has worked for the company for 15 years. Kate is also the company Stone Masonry manager.

In 2014 a brand new dedicated funeral home was built on the grounds of the original funeral home in Lower High Street, to support the needs of the business. Now with three private chapels of rest, three family arrangement rooms and a private working office. The company is able to cater to all needs and requirements of their clients in a friendly and inviting funeral home.

In 2015 the decision was made to renovate the funeral home in Colley Gate with a new reception area and particularly a new shop frontage.

The office name was changed to incorporate the Hickton name as many local families were using the office who had before came to Hicktons in Cradley Heath at their time of need, they now have a closer location.

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That's spooky! We just got engaged on Halloween night

A COUPLE who are horror movie fans got engaged at a spooky Halloween night in a first for the Black Country Living Museum.

Jade Jones, from Wolverhampton, agreed to assist during a knife throwing show, when she thought she had been randomly chosen as a volunteer from the audience by the performers at the Tipton Road attraction.

Little did she know that the two knife throwers were in on the act as they blindfolded the 21-year-old.

Propose

Boyfriend Daniel Guy, 21, from Cannock, got down on one knee to propose in front of an excited crowd. A surprised Jade said yes.

Jade and Daniel first met five years ago as friends when students on an animal care course at Rodbaston College. They only recently got back in contact with each other after a personal tragedy saw Jade lose her baby Alfie.

Sam, who comes from a travelling community and asked her mother's permission first, said they're now set for a big fat gypsy wedding in summer 2018.

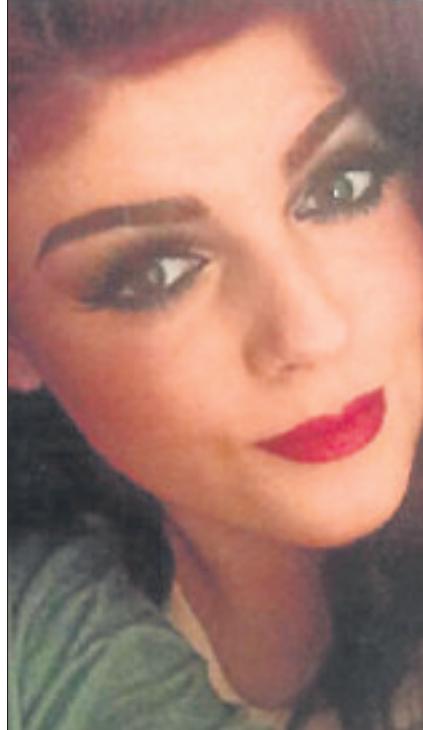
Dan, aged 21, who works as a warehouse operative, said: "I'm so happy now, it was a bit overwhelming at the time."

"I want to thank the museum for everything they did."

Jade, who wasn't expecting the proposal, said: "It was a total surprise. And we've gone viral online – it's had 8,200 views."

Knife thrower Stephen Harley said: "It was a great honour to be a part of Black Country Living Museum making dreams a reality."

School pays tribute to crash victim Georgie



Georgie Ann Evans – former Kinver High School pupil

A SCHOOL is mourning a former student who died in a car crash in Dudley. Georgie Ann Evans died in at the scene of the accident in Priory Road, at the junction of Cedar Road, on October 27. A man has appeared before magistrates charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Former Kinver High School pupil Miss Evans, of Himley, was driving a Ford Fiesta involved in a collision with an Audi. A man in his 20s, a passenger in the Fiesta, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital with neck and back injuries.

Chris Rogers, headteacher at Kinver High School, said: "She was a genuinely lovely girl who worked really hard and had a lovely group of friends. She left with great GCSEs. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her family and friends."

Kuba Oles, 24, of Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court charged with causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop at and report a road accident. He will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on November 28.

Drug farm in house was found by chance

POLICE found a drugs farm in Dudley capable of producing up to £19,000 worth of cannabis by chance.

Officers had gone to the address on an unrelated inquiry, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. But they detected the tell-tale smell of the drug while at the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, on May 4. A total of 25 plants were found under cultivation with the assistance of hydroponic growing systems in the garage and an upstairs bedroom. These had the potential to produce cannabis worth between £6,300 to £18,900, depending on the crop's quality.

Shane Cunningham, who lives at the property, admitted it was his drug farm but maintained it was for his personal use. Cunningham, who had no previous convictions, admitted producing cannabis and was given a six-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months and ordered to do 150 hours' unpaid work. Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey said: "Cannabis can, and does, ruin lives."



Jade Jones and Daniel Guy, both 21, outside the Bottle & Glass Inn at the Black Country Living Museum

Bags of help boost community projects

TWO nature reserves and two community garden projects in the Dudley borough will receive cash windfalls.

Saltwells Nature Reserve, Fens Pool Nature Reserve, the Growing our Community Together project and Jasmine Road Community Gardens will each receive a minimum of £8,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.

The scheme is being run by Tesco and Groundwork under the 5p shopping bag levy.

People can help to boost the amount for each project to £10,000 or £12,000 by voting in participating Tesco stores.

The money will be used to create a sculpture trail at Saltwells Nature Reserve and to make improvements to footpaths and signs around the Buckpool at Fens Pool Nature Reserve.

People can vote up until Sunday at the Cradley Heath Extra store and the Rowley Regis Express store for Saltwells and at Tesco stores on Bromley Lane, Moss Grove and Pensnett High Street for the community garden or Fens Pool project. People can vote in the Tesco Extra store at Burnt Tree for the Jasmine Road gardens.

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ALSTONS	Rydal fabric 2 seater sofa	£1249 £479
KRISTINA	Leather recliner sofas and chairs - End of line to clear!	SAVE 60%
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WAD	Asquith 2.5 seater pillow back sofa with nickel castors	£1699 £687

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Imre Tolgyesi pictured in 1956



Imre's mother Iren Gulyas



Three-week Hungarian revolt stunned the Russians and the aftermath was felt in Wolverhampton

Failed uprising created shockwaves that were felt in Wolverhampton

IT lasted less than three weeks but the Hungarian uprising that convulsed Budapest exactly 60 years ago sent shockwaves throughout Europe that reverberated even as far as Wolverhampton.

It was to this Black Country city that dozens of Hungarian refugees, fleeing Russian tanks sent in to quash the rebellion, found sanctuary.

Among them was an eight-year-old boy and his mother who had escaped by rail and foot across the Austrian border and arrived in Tettenhall via the Cannock Chase wartime training camp at Brocton.

Now 69, Imre Tolgyesi still vividly remembers the day the uprising reached Györ, the town, about the size of Wolverhampton, where he lived with his mother and grandparents.

"I was playing with friends when the Russian tanks came," he said. "The Mongolian

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

troops were shooting at the demonstrators. I was so frightened, I ran home and hid until my mother, who worked as a cinema usherette, came home. A few days later she told me we were going for a train ride, she didn't say where to. We left with nothing."

Hunger, cold, fear and exhaustion followed but there were also many acts of kindness that made the journey across Germany and Belgium and, by boat, to England and the Black Country, tolerable.

But Imre Tolgyesi's life is extraordinary not only for his perilous escape from the Communist dictators who took over his homeland. Just as remarkable is the life he made for himself in Wolverhampton, as an upstanding citizen of his adopted home town and a pillar of the local Hungarian community.

Such has been his contribution that the Hungarian government has just awarded

him the Order of Vitez, the equivalent of a British knighthood, in a ceremony in Budapest. The terrified eight-year-old could not have imagined he would one day return to the capital to receive his country's highest civic honour. But it is clear that despite a distance of more than 1,000 miles and six decades, part of Imre Tolgyesi never left Györ.

Eclectic

His terraced house in Tettenhall, just off the village green, is crammed with mementos of his life and loves, an eclectic mix of both cultures, for he has also embraced his adopted country.

There are richly-coloured tapestries, an Hungarian hunter's hat hanging from a peg and statuettes in Hungarian national costume but there are also quintessentially English artefacts such as horse brasses, a photograph of the Queen and, greeting visitors by the front door, a Beefeater figurine.

Among his extensive archive material is an essay he wrote at Wobaston Secondary

Modern in 1963. The essay is entitled Escape From Hungary, which included the darkest moments of that journey, being followed by the secret police after he and his mother found themselves lost in a forest, as well as the light-hearted, like their amusement at the sight of the double-decker buses that were sent to Dover to pick them up.

After leaving school, he worked as an apprentice plumber and then a silver service waiter and cocktail barman at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall before starting his own takeaway sandwich business. But for 35 years of his working life, he was employed by Wolverhampton social services, initially as an ambulance driver and later as a day centre officer, looking after the elderly and people with learning difficulties.

Alongside his paid work, the married father-of-three volunteered as a boy scout leader, has been a Justice of the Peace since 1989 and has assisted Hungarian elders in the city for the last three decades.

In 2003 he helped establish the Hungarian Cultural Association.



Honoured – Imre Tolgyesi Stanley, of Tettenhall

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Jaws 2 as Brum band bite back

ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

SIMPPLICITY, second album from Jaws, is a Brummie blend of dream pop with swirling shoegazer rock.

Formed in the Second City four years ago, the trio have been identified with the 'B-Town scene' which also produced Peace and Swim Deep, and they toured with the former after the release of their debut album *Be Slowly in 2014*.

Simplicity is likeable but not perfect, Connor Schofield's voice seems low in the mix. Their neo-psychadelic sound has hints of The Cure and a dance influence but is let down by some boggy clunkers. See Jaws at The Rainbow on December 2.

Essex boy made good via The X Factor, Ollie Murs has hit a slick groove of easy-on-the-ear pop with his fifth album *24 HRS*, on which he has written all but one of the songs.

The album includes the singles *You Don't Know Love and Grow Up* and is released in standard and deluxe versions, the latter with four extra tracks.

Murs is due to play three consecutive nights at the Genting Arena from March 23, and has already sold out two.

From pop punk to stadium rock, Oakland's over-rated **Green Day** have become the kind of rock dinosaurs they once wanted to subvert. Well, that's getting older for you. And probably nobody would have guessed that their back catalogue would have provided a musical theatre hit in American Idiot.

Twenty two years on from their breakthrough with Dookie, Billie Joe Armstrong and co sound like The Who on **Revolution Radio** opener *Someplace Now*. But mostly it's the familiar



Birmingham indie band Jaws are back with second album *Simplicity*

at the O2 Institute in Birmingham on November 29.

Blending riot grrl attitude with sharp and melodic power pop, **Honeyblood** mark II's new album **Babes Never Die** is a treat from Glaswegian singer-guitarist Stina Tweedie and her new tub-thumper, Cat Myers. The duo play Digbeth's Rainbow on November 19.

Punk, psychedelia and early Pink Floyd are among the influences on **Clear Shot**, the defiantly lo-fi third album from **Toy**, the band most likely to be a UK equivalent to the Flaming Lips or Tame Impala. Highlights include *Dream Orchestrator* with its epic wall of sound. Prepare to have your mind expanded when they play Digbeth's Rainbow on November 22.

Is it possible for something new to give you nostalgia? I was left with an urge to get out a compilation album of 80s synth classics after listening to **Friends** (which should be subtitled: *Are Electric*), the fourth album from **White Lies** featuring the sonorous baritone voices of Harry McVeigh.

These anthems hark back to the likes of Depeche Mode, The Human League, Flock of Seagulls and Simple Minds. Highlights include the stately *Swing*, slow-burning *Come On*, the magnificent *Right Place* and Roxy Music-like *Don't Fall*. **White Lies** are in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2 on November 19.

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Getting to the point with winter flu jab facts

Flu season is here again – and so is the debate about whether or not we should sign up for a vaccination. Abi Jackson gets to the point

THEY may share some similar symptoms – like a sore throat, runny or congested nose and headache – but the flu and colds are two different things, and neither is flu just a really ‘bad cold’.

Far more than just a ‘bad cold’, the flu can leave you feeling pretty wretched.

While a cold can bring on aching limbs, headaches, general exhaustion and make you feel pretty run down, flu is generally much more severe; you’ll probably struggle to get out of bed and there’s often a fever as well.

For some people, flu can be quite debilitating and possibly lead to serious complications (the World Health Organisation estimates that, globally, flu causes up to half a million deaths each year), which is why it’s a good idea to be clued up about the vaccines available.

The NHS offers flu jabs for free to certain groups, while others not eligible can opt to pay for a vaccine.

Unsure whether you need one? Read on...

IS FLU SERIOUS?

If you’re generally in good health, you’ll usually recover naturally from flu after a week or so, and some sensible rest, pain-killers, plenty of fluids and keeping warm all help. However, flu can be very serious for those less able to fight off or cope with the virus, particularly the vulnerable, elderly and those with pre-existing health problems. Complications can arise, including a worsening of any ongoing health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes.

WHEN ARE FLU JABS RECOMMENDED?

“No one likes getting the flu, but while most of us are able to shake it off, there are certain groups whose long-term health is at greater risk from the virus. For these people, a regular flu vaccination is highly recommended,” says Dr Adam Simon, chief medical officer at PushDoctor.co.uk, the UK’s leading online video GP platform. “Steering clear of flu is particularly important for people with weaker immune systems, such as those over 65, diabetics, or people who’ve recently been treated for cancer. You should also have the jab if you have a history of health problems with your kidneys or spleen, or bronchitis or asthma that can make breathing difficult.”

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE FLU JAB?

The NHS provides free flu jabs for people deemed more at-risk from flu. As well as the over-65s, and those with long-term health conditions (particularly long-term heart or respiratory diseases), those recommended to receive a jab also include people who’ve had a stroke, people on medication that may affect their immune system, and also people who are a main carer for an older or disabled person. Pregnant women are also eligible for a free jab, in order to protect their own health and that of their baby. Nasal spray flu vaccines are also available for young children.

I HAD A JAB LAST YEAR – DO I NEED ANOTHER?

Yes – because flu viruses are constantly mutating, so new vaccines are developed each season. “With many illnesses, one jab will keep you immunised for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, the flu virus is very clever and constantly changes to build up a resistance to the vaccines we produce,” explains Dr Simon. “That’s why you need to have a new flu jab every year to stay one step ahead.”

It’s also important to be aware that there are lots of flu viruses, and while the vaccines are the best form of protection currently available, they won’t provide 100 per cent protection, so you’d still need to seek medical advice if you experience symptoms. It’s best to try and get it done at the start of the season if possible.

WILL I CATCH FLU FROM A FLU JAB?

No – technically, this isn’t possible, as there are no ‘active viruses’ in the vaccine. The NHS points out that you may experience some mild aches and a mild fever for a couple of days afterwards, but serious side-effects are deemed very rare. As with everything we come into contact with, allergic reactions can occur. If you experience any warning signs, seek urgent medical advice.

CAN ANYONE GET A FLU JAB?

Yes – if you don’t qualify for a free jab, you can pay for one privately. Check local pharmacies to see what’s on offer.



The leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean



The British leek season kicked off on November 1 and runs through to April



By Sophie Madden

THE British Leek season has begun!

As we head into colder months, the Leek Grower’s Association is urging people not to forget the benefits of the British leek as the fat-free, nutrient rich answer to staying healthy and helping combat colds this winter.

From keeping sore throats at bay to improving the quality of the singing voice, this ‘upmarket onion’ or ‘poor man’s asparagus’ is a must-have on shopping lists across the country as the British leek season kicked off on November 1 and runs through to April.

More refined, subtle and sweet than the average onion and packed with anti-oxidants, the leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean where it has been grown and cooked for more than 3,000 years. Rich in iron, vitamin B6, vitamin C and folate it is used in traditional medicines to treat a variety of ailments including the common cold, gout, ‘bad’ cholesterol, kidney stones as well as protecting against cancer.

Whether you like them roasted, baked, braised or boiled, leeks are easier to digest than onions, have laxative, antiseptic, diuretic and anti-arthritis properties. Just half a cup of leeks counts as one serving so check out the British leek website www.britishleeks.co.uk for mouth-watering, seasonal recipes, developed for The Leek Grower’s Association by leading chef, author of “Healthy, Speedy Suppers” and Daily Telegraph food columnist Katriona MacGregor.

Katriona says: “It’s a joy to cook and eat together and to nourish yourself and your family with healthful, seasonal recipes that have the power to make you feel healthy, well and energised.”

Did you know?

- The French call the leek, ‘poireau’ which also means ‘simpleton’ in Europe.

- Agatha Christie named one of her most famous characters, the French detective Poirot, after the leek.

- The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, credited the clear voice of the partridge to a diet of leeks.

- It is widely reported the Roman Emperor Nero (37-68 AD) ate leeks in quantity, cooked in oil, to improve his singing voice. He became known as Poropagus or ‘leek eater’.

- Even the bible mentions leeks. The Israelites lamented the loss of one of their favourite foods as they searched for the Promised Land.

- St David, the Patron Saint of Wales, ordered his soldiers to wear leeks on their helmets in battle to differentiate themselves from the invading enemy, the Saxons.

- The leek is widely recognised as the national symbol of Wales.

- In Elizabethan times, Shakespeare refers to the custom of wearing a leek as ‘an ancient tradition’. Henry V tells Fluellen he is wearing a leek “for I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.”

- In traditional medicine, the leek is highly regarded as a cure for the common cold, alleviating the pains of childbirth and a tasty, healthy ingredient in cawl, the traditional Welsh broth.

- A means of foretelling the future and keeping away evil spirits, the leek was also



There are many ways to enjoy sweet, subtle leeks

placed under a pillow at night so young maidens could see the features of their future husbands.

LEEK RECIPES

Chargrilled leek, courgette and herb salad

Serves 4.
400g baby leeks
400g courgettes
Zest of $\frac{1}{2}$ a lemon
12 basil leaves, shredded
Small handful parsley, chopped
20g pine nuts, toasted
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp honey
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp English mustard
1 tbsp white wine vinegar
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
A handful of rocket
Salt and pepper

Remove any tough outer leaves from the baby leeks. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and blanch the leeks for 2 minutes. Drain and refresh under cold water. Drain once again and pat dry with kitchen paper to remove any excess water.

Slice the courgettes into eight lengthways and remove the seeds with a sharp knife. Place in a large bowl with the leeks, drizzle with a little oil and season with salt and pepper.

Heat a char-grill pan until smoking and add the vegetables in batches, so you don’t overcrowd the pan. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side until lightly charred and keep to one side.

To make the dressing, whisk together the honey, mustard, olive oil and vinegar with a little salt and pepper.

Pour the dressing over the char-grilled vegetables, adding the herbs, lemon zest

and rocket. Toss together well. Taste to check the seasoning and tip onto a serving dish, sprinkling with pine nuts just before you serve the salad.

Sole and leeks en papillote

Serves 4.
300g leeks, trimmed
100g frozen petit pois, defrosted
2 lemon sole, skinned and each filleted into four
8 tbsp white wine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, zest and juice
1 tbsp capers
A handful of dill, chopped
A handful of chives, chopped
Olive oil
Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 200C / Gas Mark 6

Slice the leeks thinly on the diagonal. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and blanch the sliced leeks for 1 minute. Refresh in cold water, drain and tip into a bowl with the petit pois. Add the herbs, a little salt and pepper and a drop of olive oil and mix together.

To make the parcels, cut out four large sheets of baking parchment. Divide the fish mixture between the four squares, placing a fillet in the middle of each and spreading out slightly with the back of a spoon. Lay two fillets of sole on top of each pile of vegetables.

Drizzle with olive oil and then sprinkle over the capers and a little lemon zest. Season with salt, pepper and a squeeze of lemon juice. Fold the edges of the paper together, from the outer edges towards the middle, twisting to seal. Just before you seal the parcels, add 2 tbsp of white wine to each.

Place the parcels on a large baking tray

in the centre of the oven for 10-12 minutes, until the fish is just cooked through. Remove from the oven and serve immediately, still in the parcels if you like.

Leek and Butterbean Soup

Serves 4.
400g leeks, trimmed and sliced
1 small onion, peeled and sliced
2 cloves garlic, sliced
2 x 400g tin butterbeans, drained
4 sprigs of thyme, leaves only
1 bay leaf
70ml extra virgin olive oil
1 litre chicken/vegetable stock
Heat a little butter or oil in a large saucepan and add the sliced onions and leeks. Cook gently for 10 minutes until softened, covered with a lid. Don’t allow the leeks to stick to the bottom of the pan and burn as they will become bitter. After 10 minutes, add the garlic, thyme, bay leaf and a little salt and pepper and continue to cook in the same way for a further 10 minutes.

Drain the butterbeans, rinse, and tip into the pan with the leeks. Cook for 2 more minutes, still covered with a lid and then pour over the stock. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Using a jug blender if possible, but alternatively a hand held stick blender, blend until very smooth and velvety in consistency, adding the extra virgin olive oil as you blend.

Tip back into a clean pan and taste to check the seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as needed and perhaps a squeeze of lemon juice. Return to the heat and when piping hot, serve. Top with a drizzle of olive oil, cream or perhaps a crumbling of goat’s cheese or croutons.

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Full Throttle

Show that needs no costumes – Page 19

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OR ON THE DOOR
www.warleymalechoir.co.uk

Rachmaninov's Symphony No1



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the Philharmonic Orchestra for the Rachmaninov, and acclaimed young pianist Alice Sara Ott (pictured) takes on Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1. See thsh.co.uk

ROCK & METAL

Oasis v The Stone Roses

Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177 or 07986 577 661

A Vision Of Elvis
Tonight, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Architects
Tonight, The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

UK Foo Fighters Tribute – Nothing's Set In Stone Tour
Tonight, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Pearl Jam U.K. (Tribute): Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ten
Tonight, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Total Stone Roses + The Natural Emotions
Tonight, £7 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Roxy Magic – UKs No1 Tribute to Roxy Music and Bryan Ferry
Tomorrow, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Floyd Effect – The Pink Floyd Tribute Show
Tomorrow, Courtyard Hereford, HR4 9JR.
Call 01432 340555

The Solid Gold Rock n Roll Show
Tomorrow, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Absolute Bowie
Tomorrow, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Stone Broken
Tomorrow, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

New Model Army
Sun, The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Tom Odell



Tomorrow, 7pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham
Singer-songwriter from West Sussex, who had an instant impact with hit single Another Love in 2012, has sold out this date on the back of a new album. See academymusicgroup.com/o2a

The 3rd UK Blues Challenge



Saturday, 7pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Brum-based blues belter Rebecca Downes (pictured) features with Willie & The Bandits, Dove & Bowevel and Kaz Hawkins in a battle of the blues with a trophy for the winner. See therobin.co.uk

Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes



Tuesday, 7pm
The Slade Rooms, W'ton
The punk-influenced rock band with a fearsome live reputation will get this intimate venue rocking to the sound of their forthcoming Modern Ruin album including new single Lullaby. See www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes...

Tue, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Queen Extravaganza
Wed, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Bay City Rollers
starring Les McKeown
Wed, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Courteeners
Thu, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

CLASSICAL

Spectacular Classics
Tomorrow, £16.50 - £42.50
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.

Opera Anywhere presents The Magic Flute – Mozart
Tomorrow, The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, B15 3TR.
Call 0121 454 1860

Chandos: The Friends 25th Anniversary Concert
Sun, Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Hemantika
Sun, The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Forever in Blue Jeans
Tomorrow, £19.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Traditional Irish Music
Mon, Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Jack Garrett
Tue, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Foster & Allen in Concert
Wed, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Vin Garbutt

Wed, £12
The Red Lion, Birmingham, B14 7LY.
Call 0121 444 2803

Jon Boden
Thu, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

CLUBBING

Decade of Muzik
Hertz meets Philly Blunt
Tonight, 11pm - tomorrow, 5am
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

POP

80's Mania
Tomorrow, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Voulez-Vous
Tomorrow, £26
The Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Julia Fordham – Live By Request
Tue, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

Clare Teal
Sun, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue, Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

LatinMotion presents Del Camino
Thu, The Jam House, Birmingham, B31 0QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Alabama 3 (celebrating their 20 years anniversary)
Thu, The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

ARTS & CULTURE

Masterclass: Dynamics Of Colour
Wed, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

THEATRE

Dirty Dancing
Tonight - tomorrow, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Ellen Kent's Nabucco
Tonight, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Waiting for Godot
Tonight - Thu, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Kiss Me Kate
Tonight - tomorrow, £16.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Commitments
Mon - Thu, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

An Evening With Michael Parkinson (cancelled)
Mon, New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Les Contes D'Hoffman
Tue, £16 - £17
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Our House
Tue - Thu, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes
Wed, The Birmingham & Midland Institute, B3 3BS.
Call 0121 236 3591

Looking For John
Wed - Thu, £10 - £13.50
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

A Christmas Carol – Junior Production 2016
Thu, Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School, Birmingham, B15 2UA.
Call 0121 472 9585

Psychic Sally – Call Me Psychic
Thu, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2016
Thu, The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Nothing to lose but inhibitions



They can keep their hat on – the cast of The Full Monty, the musical about steel workers who become strippers

THE hit musical about jobless Yorkshire steel workers who find a revealing way to make money, The Full Monty, arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday for a six day run.

Nearly 20 years ago the movie about six out-of-work Sheffield steelmen, left with nothing to lose but their inhibitions, went on to be one of the most successful British films. The story still resonates in an age of job insecurity.

Simon Beaufoy, the Oscar and BAFTA-winning writer, adapted his own screenplay for the hilarious and heartfelt stage production, which features iconic songs by Donna Summer, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.

This touring production of the former West End hit is led by Gary Lucy as Gaz, with Andrew Dunn as Gerald, Louis Emerick as Horse, Chris Fountain as Guy and Kai Owen as Dave. Anthony Lewis will now be playing the role of Lomper as Joe Absolom had to withdraw due to filming commitments.

Anthony Lewis is best known as Marc Reynolds in Emmerdale. Gary Lucy played Danny Pennant in EastEnders, DS Will Fletcher in The Bill, Kyle Pascoe in Footballer's Wives and Luke Morgan in Hollyoaks, and was a runner-up in Dancing on Ice.

Andrew Dunn is best known as Tony in Dinnerladies, while Louis

Emerick played Mick Johnson in the Merseyside soap Brookside and PC Walsh in the long-running sitcom Last of the Summer Wine.

Chris Fountain played Tommy Duckworth in Coronation Street and was a runner-up of Dancing on Ice. Kai Owen is best known for his roles in Torchwood and Hollyoaks.

Director Jack Ryder, who is best known for playing Jamie Mitchell in EastEnders, also directed the national touring production of hit show Calendar Girls.

For tickets see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 388 5000.

Is Our House up your street?

BILSTON Operatic Company return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with the Madness musical Our House, following the success of last year's production of Hairspray.

The show, which starts a five-day run on Tuesday, combines a witty romance with the energetic songs of Madness. It follows Joe Casey who, on his 16th birthday, takes Sarah, the girl of his dreams, out on their first date. In an effort to impress her with bravado, he breaks into a building site overlooking his home on Casey Street. The police turn up at which point Joe's life splits into two – Good Joe, who stays to help, and Bad Joe, who flees.

Our House won the Olivier Award for Best New Musical in 2003 and ran for 10 months at London's Cambridge Theatre. It features the songs It Must Be Love, Baggy Trousers, Night Boat to Cairo, House Of Fun, Driving In My Car and, of course, Our House.

This amateur production is directed and choreographed by Laura Canadine. Birmingham Ormiston Academy student Ben Evans from Lower Penn plays Joe and playing Sarah is Abi Strudwick, of Codsall Wood, who is head girl at Thomas Telford School. Both are pictured left.

Mike James and Sue Towler play Joe's parents with the cast of talented local performers also including Tom Withers, Matt Coombes, John Barrett, Katie Harrison, Jacob Kholi and Al Smith.

For tickets see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Bilston Operatic Society's productions at the Grand in recent years have also included Hairspray, Peter Pan, Annie and Hello, Dolly!



Boogie nights and much more at Robin

SOUL, blues, southern boogie and jazz-rock are all on the agenda at Bilston's Robin 2 over the next week.

On Friday 70s British disco favourites The Real Thing and Heatwave team up at the Mount Pleasant venue.

Top blues acts compete in the 3rd UK Blues Challenge on Saturday and former Amen Corner frontman Andy Fairweather Low brings his Lowriders for a soul night on Sunday.

Florida rock legends Molly Hatchet visit on Monday, the Danny Giles Band lead a triple bill of blues on Tuesday and jazz-rock pioneers Soft Machine play on Wednesday.

Get the Sweats with soulful sounds

KEY gigs this week include the return of acclaimed live act Nathaniel Rateliff & The Nite Sweats with stomping soulful sounds at the O2 Academy in Birmingham on Monday.

You can take in reggae classics at the O2 Institute in Dagenham on Saturday when the late Bob Marley's backing band The Wailers spread One Love vibes.

Or get your fill of punky J rock when Tokyo outfit Mutant Monster and Touch My Secret hit the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday. That venue also hosts The Wave Pictures on Monday in the other room and ex-Icicle Works frontman Ian McNabb on Tuesday.

Big hair and great tunes from the 80s

BIG hair, check; shoulder pads, check; neon colours, check; so it's time to return to the 1980s.

80's Mania Show is Europe's official 1980s multi-tribute concert, with organisers declaring: "If you love the 80s – do not miss this show."

The show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday features 25 chart-topping pop icons recreated with live band and awesome dancers.

They perform more than 35 hits with tributes to Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Kim Wilde, Culture Club, Madonna, Wham!, The Human League, Adam Ant, Madness and many more.

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SAT 12/11/16
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SUN 13/11/16
STARMAKERS KARAOKE

MON 14/11/16
BENS DISCO & KARAOKE
TUE 15/11/16
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WED 16/11/16
CHAD WHITE
THUR 17/11/16
STARMAKERS KARAOKE

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at the Royal Albert Hall

Departing Saturday 17 December 2016

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✓ New Year's Eve 3-course dinner at the Café Rouge Hays Galleria, with glass of sparkling wine and ½ bottle of wine per person
✓ Cruise on the Thames Star Clipper with midnight glass of champagne
✓ Visit to Windsor
✓ Free time in London and Windsor
✓ Excursion to central London to see the New Year's Day Parade

3 days, by coach
only £299.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/PFC665

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION CRUISE ON THE RIVER THAMES

Departing Friday 30 December 2016

Price Includes...

✓ 2 nights at the 4 star Holiday Inn Heathrow M4/Jct 4 with full English breakfast and 3-course dinner on the first night
✓ New Year's Eve 3-course dinner at the Café Rouge Hays Galleria, with glass of sparkling wine and ½ bottle of wine per person
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✓ Excursion to central London to see the New Year's Day Parade

3 days, by coach
only £299.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/UHW409

Single room supplements £80pp. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call:
01902 519414

CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show. **12.05** Football Focus. **12.35** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Four Nations Rugby League. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **Scrum v Australia. (R) 5.15** Celebrity Mastermind. **(R) 5.45** BBC News. **5.55** Regional Programme.

6.05 **Pointless Celebrities.** Edition focusing on the subjects of music, with Sinitta, Jaymi Hensley, Vernie Bennett, Esther Bennett, Claire Richards, Jan 'H' Watkins, Tony Christie and Ben Adams. **(R)**

6.55 **Strictly Come Dancing.** The eight remaining couples show off their skills on the dance-floor, as Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood appraise their form.

8.10 **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by showing off as much as they know about a given subject.

9.00 **The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.** Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, Laura Mvula, Birdy and Alexander Armstrong perform alongside the Royal Air Force Squadronaires and the Band of HM Royal Marines. Together, they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.40 BBC News: Weather.; National Lottery Update.

11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner invites Vernon Kay, Kelly Hoppen and Miles Jupp to discuss their pet hates, which include litter louts, toilet-roll covers and loud noise. **(R)**

11.40 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream. Romesh Ranganathan reunites with his mum in Los Angeles, where they visit the set of a US soap, go undercover with a private detective, and attend a Comic Con. Last in the series.

12.10 Film: The Rebound. (2009) **1.45 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.05 Film: Government Girl. (1943) **7.35** **Film:** Suspicion. (1941) **9.45** Secret Britain. **(R) 10.45** The Good Cook. (R) **11.15** Hairy Bikers: Best of British. (R) **12.15** The Best Dressed Event. **(R) 1.30** Horrible Histories: Hammer Time. **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.15 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy, **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. **6.00** Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Women's Football Show. **(R) 8.10**

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CHOICE



Eileen O'Higgins

My Mother and Other Strangers (BBC1, 9pm)

Take a trip back in time with this new drama to Northern Ireland during the Second World War. Hattie Morahan heads the cast as Rose, the matriarch of the Coyne family. English born and bred, she followed her husband Michael to his home in Moybeg, where she has since raised three children. Wartime seems exciting to their young son Francis, whose friend tries to persuade him to explore the local air base dump, while teenage daughter Emma falls for one of the American airmen stationed there. But it's Captain Dreyfuss who will have the biggest impact on the family's lives when he and Rose form an undeniable bond that threatens the future happiness of her loved ones.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.20** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **12.30** The People Remember. **1.30** BBC News: Weather. **1.45** Live Four Nations Rugby League, England vs Australia (kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Planet Earth II. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.15 *Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special*. Helen Skelton joins a cycle ride across Northern France commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and discovers how bicycles were used on the front line in the First World War. John Craven discovers how tractors played a role in the development of tanks. Ellie Harrison visits the National Memorial Arboretum, and Jules Hudson reveals how the countryside helped one soldier's recovery. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.15 *Strictly Come Dancing: The Results*. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show. The professional dancers give a performance for Remembrance Day and Andre Rieu performs Hallelujah.

8.00 *Planet Earth II*. Animals that live in mountain ranges, including rival snow leopards, grizzly bears using trees to shed their winter fur, and golden eagles hunting over snow-capped peaks.

9.00 *My Mother and Other Strangers*. New series. Drama set in Northern Ireland during the Second World War following the fortunes of a family living near a United States Army Air Force airfield. Hattie Morahan stars.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 *The Selfless Sikh: Faith on the Frontline*. Documentary following Sikh aid worker Ravi Singh, who was inspired by his faith's teachings to travel to Iraq and provide support for Yazidi families fleeing persecution by Isis.

11.00 *DIY SOS at Great Ormond Street Hospital*. The DIY SOS team embarks on a special challenge, transforming Chris Beardshaw's Chelsea Flower Show garden to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, and rebuilding it on the roof. **(R)**

12.00 Citizen Khan. **(R)** **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Glorious Gardens from Above. **(R)** **7.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. **(R)** **7.45** Greatest Gardens. **(R)** **8.15** Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children's Week. **(R)** **9.30** Saturday Kitchen. **9.30** Best Bites from the Big Cook. **11.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. **(R)** **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **(R)** **2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Coverage of the opening day at the O2 in London. **5.00** Fog It! **(R)** **5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph Highlights.

6.30 *Film: Miss Potter*. (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter is unable to find a firm willing to give her book based on a character called Peter Rabbit a chance, until a timid publisher with whom she falls in love takes her project. Biographical period drama, starring Renée Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Emily Watson and Barbara Flynn.

8.00 *Operation Gold Rush with Dan Snow*. The team arrives at Dawson City, and sets up a mining camp in the gold fields. They have just five days to find gold using only traditional 19th-century methods. Last in the series.

9.00 *Will Britain Ever Have a Black Prime Minister?* David Harewood presents a documentary examining the obstacles that make it difficult for black people to rise to positions of power and influence in British society.

10.00 *Black Is the New Black*. (2011) Romi, a young woman from rural David Harewood, Timi Tempah, Trevor McDonald and Alesha Dixon share their thoughts on growing up, touching on family, school and the working world.

10.30 *Later... with Jools Holland: Groove & Grime*. Jools presents a compilation of archive clips featuring black artists, including performances by D-Influence, Emeli Sandé, Craig David, Stormzy, Mark Morrison and Dizzee Rascal.

11.30 *Film: She's Out of My League*. (2010) An average man begins a relationship with a beautiful and clever woman, but is haunted by the fear that she can do better than him. Romantic comedy, with Jay Baruchel and Alice Eve.

12.00 *Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights*.

12.30 *Jackpot247*. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **(R)** **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **(R)** **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R)** **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R)** **6.45** Sooty. **(R)** **6.55** Stories. **(R)** **7.00** Saturday Kitchen. **7.15** Oddbods. **(R)** **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled!: Nords & Monsters. **(R)** **7.50** Scrambled!: Nords & Monsters. **(R)** **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **(R)** **8.00** Scrambled!: Looped. **(R)** **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **(R)** **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. **(R)** **11.30** Murder, She Wrote. **(R)** **12.25** ITW: Weather. **12.35** The Chase. **(R)** **1.35** The X Factor. **(R)** **3.05** Midsummers Murders. **(R)** **5.00** Tipping Point. **(R)** **6.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather.

6.30 *Off Their Rockers*. Katie Price joins the 60s age pranksters.

7.00 *The Next Great Magician*. Jim Carter and Amy Childs help some of the second batch of performers with their illusions.

8.00 *The X Factor*. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's show, revealing which is through to the next stage before a sing-off decides which act will be eliminated from the contest.

9.00 *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* (2011) Ant and Dec return to the jungles of Murwillumbah in New South Wales, Australia to present the latest series of the celebrity survival challenge. Contestants foregoing their creature comforts to brave the hardships of the Bush for this series are unconcerned at the time of going to press, but all will no doubt face a struggle to complete the gruelling daily physical and mental tasks, as well as taking a mouthful of some of the region's more gruesome wildlife in the Bush Tucker Trials.

10.45 ITV News: Weather.

11.05 *The Pit of War: The Loves and Lives of the War Poets*. Fact-based First World War drama telling the story of poets Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and Robert Graves as they are confronted with the chaos of the trenches. With John Hurt.

12.00 *Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights*.

12.30 *Jackpot247*. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 *Triathlon: Challenge Aruba*. **6.40** Frasier. **(R)** **7.05** Frasier. **(R)** **7.30** Film: *Imagine That*. (2009) Fantasy comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **8.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the British Grand Prix. **1.30** *It's a Knockout*. **2.00** *It's a Knockout*. **2.30** *It's a Knockout*. **3.00** *It's a Knockout*. **3.30** *It's a Knockout*. **4.00** *It's a Knockout*. **4.30** *It's a Knockout*. **5.00** *It's a Knockout*. **5.30** *It's a Knockout*. **6.00** *It's a Knockout*. **6.30** *It's a Knockout*. **7.00** *It's a Knockout*. **7.30** *It's a Knockout*. **8.00** *It's a Knockout*. **8.30** *It's a Knockout*. **9.00** *It's a Knockout*. **9.30** *It's a Knockout*. **10.00** *It's a Knockout*. **10.30** *It's a Knockout*. **11.00** *It's a Knockout*. **11.30** *It's a Knockout*. **12.00** *It's a Knockout*. **12.30** *It's a Knockout*. **1.00** *It's a Knockout*. **1.30** *It's a Knockout*. **2.00** *It's a Knockout*. **2.30** *It's a Knockout*. **3.00** *It's a Knockout*. **3.30** *It's a Knockout*. **4.00** *It's a Knockout*. **4.30** *It's a Knockout*. **5.00** *It's a Knockout*. **5.30** *It's a Knockout*. **6.00** *It's a Knockout*. 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MONDAY

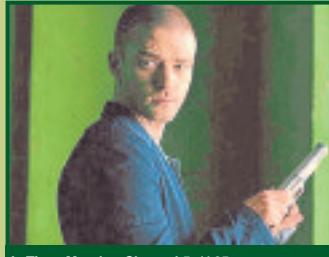
In Time, Channel 5, 11.05pm

Future scientists reverse the ageing process, allowing people to live for ever. To avoid overpopulation, time becomes a currency, with the rich living indefinitely while the poor must toil to stave off death. A factory worker acquires 100 years of time, and spends it fighting to redress the balance of power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Justin Timberlake. (2011)

TUESDAY

The March Sisters at Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Four sisters are shocked to learn their family home will have to be sold because of the massive amount of repair work it needs. When their parents go away, the girls come up with a plan to restore the place themselves and have it back to its former glory by Christmas. Drama inspired by Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, starring Julie Marie Berman. (2012)



In Time, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.45pm

Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

THURSDAY

A Christmas Kiss, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An aspiring designer impulsively kisses a man she meets in a lift, only to discover he is her boss's boyfriend. She is given the task of decorating his house for a lavish Christmas party, but begins to fall in love with him – while he does not remember their previous encounter. Romantic drama, with Laura Brckenridge and Elisabeth Rohm. (2011)

FRIDAY

Carry On Jack, ITV, 11.15pm

A bumbling midshipman has his identity stolen by a woman desperate to go to sea, and then ends up press-ganged on to the same ship. Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins and Juliet Mills. (1963)

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New drama hopes to be a novel success

Actress Phoebe Fox is clearly in demand at the moment – not only can she be seen in Stephen Poliakoff's latest series, Close to the Enemy, she's also cropping up in another one of BBC Two's most prestigious offerings, NW.

Adapted from Zadie Smith's best-selling novel, the feature-length drama follows Natalie (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and Leah (Fox), two friends who grew up together in north-west London, but whose lives have taken them in very different directions.

Phoebe explains: "Leah and Natalie both grew up on the same estate, they are best friends but they have reached a point in their lives where they are so far away from each other.

"Natalie's lost sight of who she is and it's hard for a friendship to survive when you don't recognise your best friend anymore. They love each other but they also sort of hate each other's guts. It's a very complicated relationship."

Her co-star Nikki adds: "Natalie

starts out life as Keisha. From a modest background, she's incredibly intelligent and driven, and pushes herself on to university, eventually becoming a barrister. She then marries the 'perfect' man, has two children and seems like she has the perfect life.

"She's a miracle of her own self-invention, but she reaches a point in her mid-thirties where she asks herself what it's all about and has an existential crisis. It's at this time in her life that we meet Natalie in NW."

So, at least she still has something in common with Leah, who is facing some big decisions of her own. Phoebe says: "She's dealing with something that is still quite taboo for women to talk about: she doesn't want to have kids. That's her main story within the book and the screenplay. We see her having to confront something which is seen as being so fundamentally female."

It's one of the elements that drew the actress to the role. "It's very rare to see such finely drawn female characters, for them to be dealing

with issues that are so true to life, instead of worrying about whether a guy likes them or not.

"As an actress you spend a lot of time in those kind of roles, falling in and out of love with the right and the wrong man; so to actually address deeper issues was really exciting. A lot of my friends don't want to have kids, it's not a cut and dry issue for our generation, so Leah felt very real – that really appealed to me."

And it's not just the characters that felt authentic – the contemporary London setting did too. Asked what viewers can expect from NW, Phoebe says: "I think people can expect a portrait of London with a very emotional core to it, depicting the city and its inhabitants, in all of its nastiness but also all of its glory."

The drama shows that Leah and Natalie are living in an area where poverty and wealth are just streets apart – and when they are both brought into contact with two other characters from their old estate, the tensions threaten to reach breaking point.



Nikki Amuka-Bird and Phoebe Fox star in NW, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Children in Need Rocks for Terry

BBC1, 8.30pm

Feeanne Cotton and Greg James host a special concert staged at the Royal Albert Hall to honour broadcaster and Children in Need figurehead Terry Wogan, featuring performances by Take That, Ellie Goulding, Olly Murs, Peter Andre, Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Rick Astley, Beverley Knight, Alexander Armstrong, the Vamps, Ward Thomas and Shaun Escoffery. There are also appeal films and archive clips of Terry's career, including a chance to relive one of the classic Radio 2 Janet and John Stories.

TUESDAY

Live International Football

ITV, 7.30pm

England v Spain (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the friendly at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate takes charge of the fourth and final game of his short stint as England manager. Southgate stepped up from his role as Under-21s boss to take the reins of the senior team in the wake of Sam Allardyce's shock departure after just one match, and has been seen by many as an ideal candidate for the job full-time. No decision has yet been taken by the FA, but the former Middlesbrough defender will be keen to

impress his superiors with a good performance here against the former world champions.

WEDNESDAY

This Time Next Year

ITV, 8pm

Davina meets up with more people who want to change the course of their life over the space of a year. First up is a 16-year-old boy who has been unable to speak for six years after suffering damage to his windpipe. He's made the decision to undergo an operation, but will it help him to regain his voice? The presenter also talks to a father of three who is pledging to shed seven stones in weight, and Kathryn and Chris who are turning to surrogacy after Kathryn was told that a rare disease means she risks losing her sight if she carries their second child.

THURSDAY

DIY SOS: Million Pound Build for Children in Need

BBC1, 8pm

DIY SOS highlights the plight of nation's 250,000 young carers,

who look after their parents on a daily basis.

Blackpool Carers Trust, which is supported by funding from Children in Need, provides limited out-of-school respite and training activities for some of these carers – but its current centre is bursting at the seams. It has now inherited a bigger, broken-down property, which will require the renovation of a neglected building and a huge overgrown garden – and that's where Nick and the team come in, with help from designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.



Children in Need 2016, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

FRIDAY

Children in Need 2016

BBC1, 7.30pm

Tess Daly and Greg James introduce a night of entertainment as the BBC's annual appeal night gets underway, beginning with a performance from the hit West End musical Aladdin and a special children's edition of Would I Lie to You?

8.00 The cast of

EastEnders performs a dance medley of 1980s movie classics and a children's choir of over 1,500 members sings in unison across the nation. Plus, an exclusive first look of the Dr Who Christmas special. 8.30 Graham Norton and Ade Adepitan host as a group of children receives a very special surprise from Little Mix. Plus, an Olympic-themed Strictly Come Dancing featuring some of the members of Team GB. 9.00 Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins help Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne in his quest to find Pudsey Bear. 9.30 The final leg of The One Show's amazing rickshaw challenge. Plus, the first winner of The Sir Terry Wogan Fundraiser of Year award is announced and Craig David is in the studio to perform the official Children in Need single, All We Needed.

Rick Stein's Long Weekends

BBC2, 9pm

The presenter visits the home of New Nordic cuisine – Copenhagen – where he goes foraging for rosehip and learns about the art of pickling buds, bark and flowers. He's cheered to find plenty of traditional favourites, such as the city's famous Smorrebrod open sandwiches on rye bread, delicious poached turbot with cabbage and lemon butter sauce and – of course – the ubiquitous Danish pastry.

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A fishy story - two sea bass served with root vegetables and mash



Rustic restaurant - inside is authentic and relaxed



Taste of Italy - Cafe Casita Ristorante Italiano



Traditional taste - homemade tiramisu

It's no secret now, this Italian restaurant was just the job

ITALIAN has always been a personal preference so when our six-year wedding anniversary came up we decided it would be the perfect excuse to sample one of the local eateries.

There is just something about the food, wine and atmosphere that seems to tick all the boxes for such occasions. Our choice was Cafe Casita, in Clarence Street, Dudley, which we had previously been assured had a lovely relaxed and rustic feel about it.

It was exactly what we had hoped for with the set up being not too posh but fancy enough to enjoy a special meal.

Under the management of Anna and Erminio who have a passion for creating a memorable experience, the restaurant specialises in seafood – particularly Dover sole,

By James Driver-Fisher

salmon, monkfish, seabass and lemon sole – which again ticked all the boxes for us.

Without trying to sound too set in my ways, the first thing my eyes are always drawn to for a main is some sort of seafood pasta but of course there were drinks, nibbles and starters to sort out first.

After much deliberation Kelly opted for fungi in crosta, mushrooms wrapped in filo pastry topped with a light creamy infusion of bacon, mushrooms and mozzarella.

My choice was salsiccia picante, spicy Italian sausage oven-baked with a combination of peppers, onions and tomatoes. The sauce for the salsiccia picante was rich, thick and bursting with tomato and garlic.

Kelly's starter was probably the polar opposite because, still packed full of flavour, it was a much lighter option and really

very tasty. Perhaps one of the nicest things about the whole evening was at no point did we feel rushed.

Choosing a meal was a seriously hard task because of the options available but a decision had to be made and Kelly's eyes were immediately drawn to the chef's specials, the sea bass in particular, which came with a sauce, root vegetables and a bed of mash potatoes.

Crispy

The sea bass was cooked very nicely and remained slightly crispy on the outside.

I went with what I knew I'd love and ordered the tagliolini gameroni, Italy's finest noodles, according to the menu, tossed in king prawns, garlic and cherry tomatoes, served in a creamy sauce with a touch of chilli.

Having tried numerous fish-based dishes

in restaurants I can safely say the tagliolini gameroni was up there with the best. Having had starters, a few side dishes and a main meant there was no room for a sweet course, so we kindly passed on the dessert menu although the tiramisu did look tempting.

The café-style décor of the venue really does add to the experience because, although it's nothing like your run-of-mill greasy spoon, the seating, layout and general feel of the restaurant is designed to make diners feel at home.

Café Casita classed itself as one of the Black Country's best kept secrets within the dining scene.

The restaurant was packed while we were there and everyone seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and food as much as we were – so perhaps it won't be a best kept secret for much longer.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

A stunning and modern detached family home

Pleasantly situated in a highly sought after village address, 66a Foundry Road, Wall Heath, Dudley, is a stunning and substantial modern four-bedroomed detached family house.

Having impressively spacious, luxury double glazed and centrally heated accommodation over three floors, enhanced by a large full width conservatory extension and two en-suite shower rooms, it is for sale through Taylors at £299,950 with no chain. It is well placed for the village shops and commuter links.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Viewing is highly recommended for the pleasant setting and superb layout to be fully appreciated."

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off, an under-stairs store cupboard, spotlights and tiled flooring and there is a ground floor WC.

The lounge has a living flame-style gas fire with a marble-style feature fireplace surround, double doors with windows either side to the conservatory and further glazed double doors opening to a separate formal dining room.

Beautifully appointed, the kitchen has light-wood style units with black granite working surfaces and a door to the large full width conservatory extension.

This has mirrored windows to the right hand side, tiled flooring and French-style doors to the rear garden. On the first floor landing is stairs leading up to the second floor.

Bedroom one has open views to the rear and an en-suite shower room with a corner shower cubicle with a curved screen door, contemporary glass wash basin and a push button flush WC and full height wall tiling and floor tiling and a Velux roof window.

Bedroom three has a window to the front, as does bedroom four. The house bathroom has a classic white suite including a spa bath. Off the second floor is bedroom two with two Velux roof windows, a store cupboard and a door to an en-suite with a Velux window. Outside the property is set back from the road beyond a good sized driveway and a garage. A gate leads to the rear garden with a paved patio and large lawn and shed.

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Superb bungalow close to the town centre

A superb bungalow close to Dudley Town Centre, The Belper is for sale through Trinity Property at offer in excess of £130,000.

DUDLEY
£130,000

– of this property is a definite must!

The agents are expecting the sale of this home to attract a lot of interest.

For further information, or to arrange a viewing of this charming property, please contact the selling agents, Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net

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HALESOWEN

Immaculately presented and extended, this family home in Lyttleton Avenue, Hurst Green, Halesowen, is close to good schools and transport links.

It includes a superb kitchen/family room extension to the rear with the wow factor, and is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £205,000.

This gorgeous property also has a porch, reception hall, a dining room, a lounge, a study/bedroom four, a utility, a downstairs shower room, three bedrooms and a house shower room.

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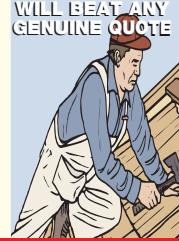
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8

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Service record, 2008.

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TOYOTA PREVIA DIESEL
2.0

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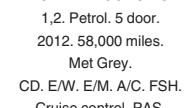


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2012, 29,100 miles, black, alloys, aircon, parking sensors, bluetooth, MoT, fsh, stereo, electric windows, genuine reason for sale.

£4,395 ono

07948 533707.

EXCELLENT
CONDITION

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2.0 HDi, MoT until August 2017. Slight dent on body.

Good runner.

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BARGAIN

FORD FIESTA 1.2

53 Reg, petrol, silver, PAS, alloys.

Air bags, CL, 11 months MoT.

EW, CD.

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MoT till March 2017.

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PEUGEOT 306 ESTATE

Silver, diesel.

MoT till March 2017.

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5dr.

58 Reg.

Grey.

MoT'd.

FSH.

Second owner.

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07454 844447

or

07746 209372

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DYNAMIQUE

Black

MoT

03 plate.

£595.

07913 981460.

BARGAIN

SAAB 900 TURBO SE

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EXCELLENT
CONDITION

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA

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Price is very compelling for Musso

By Andrew Evans

The Musso is largely an updated version of the Korando Sports pickup, but with a new name brought back from Ssangyong's past. Musso - Korean for 'rhinoceros' - brings not only an exterior update and rebadge, but also a new engine, the Euro 6-compliant 2.2-litre E-XDI diesel. This can be paired with either a 6-speed manual or a new 6-speed automatic from Aisin.

The new engine brings an improved punch that improves the towing rating and brings a mild boost to the combined fuel economy of around five per cent, but performance is unaffected.

The redesigned cabin looks interesting enough, with an asymmetric set-up that proves a little awkward to use at first and has a few strange details. While the switchgear feels solid enough, the overall quality of the cabin isn't up to scratch yet - but then the same can be said of some pricier alternatives.

There are no questions about the Musso's practicality credentials. We haven't measured up the seat dimensions, but it's almost a moot point - the cabin is vast and even three abreast in the back isn't that much of a problem. This makes it great for family use.

The load bay behind you is proportioned to fit a standard Euro pallet, with a total of 2.04 square metres of area to play with. The 1.312 litre bed is fully lined, with tie-down points inside the bay too, so you can pack any load you want to safely. A range of load covers is



The re-designed cabin is interesting available too, so you can use it as a secure load area or put a camper back on it for your dogs, for example.

Total payload is one tonne - the same as its predecessor - while the Musso can now tow up to three tonnes, bringing it into contention with more expensive rivals.

Unlike the majority of vehicles in the pickup sector, the Musso makes use of independent rear suspension. This gives it a surprisingly compliant ride, whether running empty or with the load bay pushed to its one-tonne limit - we also tested the car with a load bay full of gravel just to make sure. Without the extra weight, the Musso can get a little soggy over bumps, but by and large it's better than rivals that stick to more basic suspension.

The steering is somewhat mushy and vague though, so if you have any ambitions to press on down a country road it's best to put them on the backburner.

At speed there's rather a lot of wind noise, coming from those huge wing mirrors, but it's expected for this type of vehicle. Otherwise it's happy to sit at motorway speeds with little fuss, albeit with a little bit of body roll if you make too quick a lane change.

In EX specification you gain a reversing camera and it makes the pretty bulky Musso a breeze to park - particularly with that light steering. It would benefit from front parking sensors to judge the nose a little better.

The Musso range starts from £15,995 (excluding VAT) and comes equipped with 18" alloy wheels, leather-look seats, front and rear electric windows, power folding door mirrors, manual air conditioning, CD & RDS Radio with iPod & Bluetooth connectivity and a multifunction steering wheel.

The EX Auto specification vehicle adds black 18" alloy wheels, roof rails, leather seats - heated in the front and electrically adjustable for the driver, a 7" touchscreen for operating the infotainment, rear view camera with parking sensors, front LED daytime running lights, auto headlamps, rain sensing wipers and cruise control, for £17,995.

The 6-speed automatic gearbox is a £1,000 option, so the car comes in at £18,995 (excluding VAT). Metallic paint is a £500 option, with a Kenwood touchscreen that brings DAB and navigation also available as a £999 option.

If you're self-employed and have a family, the Musso Pickup makes a lot of sense. Alongside being cheap - particularly if you

SSANGYONG MUSSO, FROM £15,995



There is a range of load covers including one which makes a secure load area

can claim the VAT back - and practical, it's roomy and comfortable enough to accommodate the kids when not put to work. Specify the optional load cover and the dogs can come too.

Ultimately the Musso Pickup proves a commendable all-rounder. The engine and

gearbox, particularly the automatic, are a huge improvement and certainly bring the Musso into consideration, with the good ride brought by the multilink rear suspension proving something of a boon. All other considerations aside though, the price is very compelling.

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The u-16 girls were national finalists in April this year



Louie Morris and Reece Jecketts



The u-18s when they became National Outdoor Champions in 2011.



The club's community development officer Jude Hitchens

Lazy days over as club looks to bounce back

CANNOCK Hockey Club have made a series of appointments to lead them back to the top after admitting they got 'lazy'.

Alex Hill has taken over as club captain from Tom Widdowson after the appointment of Gary Stacey as head coach of the men's first-team. The previous National League champions are looking to bounce back from relegation after 27 years in the top division.

Hill, who joined the club as a 12-year-old in 2003, previously coached in the junior section from the Under-11s to the Under-18s.

The club has also announced the appointment of two internationals supporting their under-16 and under-18 squads.

Louie Morris, aged 19, who has played for England under-18s, will continue to lead the under-16s while Callum Stacey, also 19, who has played Wales under-18s last year and is now in the senior squad, will take over the under-18s.

Complacent

Stacey, the son of head coach Gary, is back in the first-team squad after spending a year at National League side Olton and West Warwick gaining valuable experience.

In addition, Jude Hitchens has been appointed the club's new community club development officer.

Hill admits the club's previous successes made them complacent but says there is a real determination to turn things around.

"Cannock Hockey Club has a fantastic history, having been champions of the National League and leading competitors across junior age group competitions for many years," he said.

"Sadly in recent years people have sat on this past success. We've been lazy. Our junior section needs

SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Nash

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock."

rebuilding and our club is in need of real inspiration.

"The current membership, including the first team and juniors, must create its own history and this time create a legacy that will last for decades."

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock."

"However, it has given us time to reflect, and we have a new ethos at Cannock this year which is 'every member matters'."

"We want to be successful at first-team level but we want everyone at our club to feel cared for," he added.

"The appointment of Gary and now Jude will be crucial if we are to succeed with this."

"They both know the club inside out and most importantly they care about our club."

"I'm so excited about this season, I think it will be a real turning point in our future."

As regards his new role, Hill said: "My job is to oversee selection, review and develop the coaching team, support parents and help improve hockey across the club with the support of the newly-appointed coaches."

The new ethos is reflected by Cannock boasting

training sessions suitable for all levels from ages of eight to 80.

Hitchens, who has played for Cannock Ladies for three decades, will take responsibility of developing the membership and promoting the sport in the community.

This will include developing links with both primary and secondary schools as well as launching a new back-2-hockey scheme. Cannock already has a satellite club set-up at Erasmus Darwin School in Chasetown and will look to set up competitions between local schools at their Chase Park base.

"I'm so happy to be playing such a key role at the club I love," said Hitchens.

"Cannock is the best hockey club in the Midlands, with its facilities, quality of its provision and success on the pitch."

"I can't wait to get started and spread the Cannock message."

Merging

The club also welcomes Chris Beck, who will working on social media coverage across all levels of the club.

Meanwhile, Cannock hockey club's junior section is merging with the ladies section for all members under 14.

This will mean all under-14s will train on the same evening and will also allow them to share resources and expertise.

Hill will oversee the development of both the players and coaches at under-16s and under-18s levels, creating a clearer pathway to Stacey and the first-team squad.

Cannock are seeking nine matchday sponsors as well as a main sponsor to appear on the first-team kit for next season.

Anyone interested should contact joint chairman Ian Gardner via igardner.uk@gmail.com



Cannock Boys under-18s National Indoor Champions 2015



Children as young as under-12 are integrated into the Cannock Hockey Club set up

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Put shirt on club bouncing back from complacency

Page 35



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Zaber goes for gold in title attempt

OLD Hill fighter Manny Zaber will have to overcome the worldly wise Josh Baillie to get his hands on his first professional title next weekend. Zaber has been paired with Baillie to contest the British Challenge super featherweight crown.

The two will go toe-to-toe in an eight-round at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday November 19, on Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing show titled 'Going For Gold.'

Unfeated Zaber has eight paid victories under his belt without reply, but is still awaiting his first inside-the-distance. The 21-year-old was also nominated for the Best Newcomer award at the British Boxing Board of Control Midlands area's annual awards.

'Pac Man' will come across a game adversary in Baillie who, despite only taking part in seven pro contests, has boxed far and wide.

'The Boss' travelled to Australia for his first three fights, winning two with a debut TKO. Only future national champion Miles Zalewski got the better of him, on points. Baillie then went to China to take on Can Xu, losing narrowly on points.

The 31-year-old was born in Barrow-on-Furness but lives in Tamworth.

Five support contests will support the main event, with Walsall's Martin Gethin and Zach Parker featuring in six-rounders.

Wolverhampton's Josh Burke will be looking to move into position for the vacant Midlands cruiserweight title in a four rounder against Aaron Green.

Chasetown's Luke Jones is targeting a hat-trick of pro wins with his first Town Hall appearance. West Bromwich's Thomas Loach is waiting to be paired for his second outing.

Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside, on sale on 0845 111 2900.

'Yozza' has Wade to face on darts Grand Slam debut

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes will have PDC heavyweights James Wade and Dave Chisnall in his group for the Grand Slam of Darts. Hughes is the only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament begins at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday afternoon. James Wilson completes the group.

Holder, PDC No 1 Michael van Gerwen was drawn in Group A with Brendan Dolan, Max Hopp and the BDO's Martin Adams. Six-time winner Phil Taylor is in Group D with Ian White, Darren Webster and the BDO's Darryl Fitton. Raymond van Barneveld, Mensur Suljovic, Nathan Aspinall and the BDO's Danny Noppert are in Group F.

Reigning BDO world champion Scott Waites, is in Group B with Robert Thornton, Gerwyn Price and Dimitri van den Burgh. PDC world champ Gary Anderson makes up Group E with Alan Norris, Nathan Derry and Glen Durrant.

Peter Wright will play Simon Whitlock, Ted Evetts and the BDO's Jeff Smith in Group C. Group H comprises Adrian Lewis, Benito van de Pas, Chris Dobey and the BDO's Scott Mitchell.

Summers sets sights on next bout

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers returned to action in style with a TKO win after exactly seven months out and already has his next ring date.

Summers headlined the last time professional boxing was staged at The Venue in Dudley on March 4 and again took top billing under the same lights last weekend, writes Craig Birch.

'Digger' blew away the rust with a third round stoppage of Chris Dixon, who still had one minute and five seconds left to last of the session.

The unbeaten light heavyweight kept up his flawless record of 12 wins from 12, scoring his fifth inside-the-distance. He will now prepare to fight again on December 4. PJ Promotions

Boxing

are putting on their next show at The Venue, 'Crunchtime at Lunchtime' Sunday afternoon show. Summers is likely to take on Kelvin Young in another six-rounder.

Netherthon's Les Byfield, Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny and Birmingham's Kane Baker are all set to feature after winning on Friday night, as will Lichfield's Brad Foster.

Byfield eased to a four-round points landslide over Ricky Leach, who had little time to warm up after arriving late due to traffic on the motorway.

Denny was elated after snapping a run of two draws in a row at middleweight. He had his hand raised, at last, after beating Robert Studzinski.

Baker, from Bartley Green, took on the most experienced active professional in the country, Kristian Laight, competing in his 252nd paid contest.

Eight of the night honours went to Telford's Tony Jones, with manager Kellie Maloney looking on, as he saw off Ross Jameson at super lightweight.

CJ Challenger, 22, opened the show with the promotion's welterweight from Leicester defeating Czech Michal Voyska emphatically on points.

HOSTS PUT OLD HALES TO BED

Bedford Athletic 34 Old Halesonians 12

AFTER humiliation at home to Syston, Hales travelled to bottom side Bedford and took an early lead through a pushover try from Adam Clayton.

Bedford notched a try to level and two more scores gave them a 15-5 interval lead.

Hales needed to regroup and get back to basics but from the kick off Bedford again pressured down the left flank, they had a try disallowed.

In reply, prop Dempsey touched down, which Chris Hooper converted before Hales lost Max MacFarlane to a yellow card.

Bedford were more committed and scored two more tries in quick succession to lead 29-12 and added another late try against a demoralised side.

Hales have a rest from league rugby this week but meet Hereford on Saturday at home in the North Midlands Cup, kick off 2pm. They host Birmingham Solihull in the league on November 19, kick off 2.15pm.

Old Halesonians 4ths 32 Stourbridge 4ths 10

OLD Hales accepted this friendly fixture against Stourbridge 4ths late on Friday afternoon after being let down by Malvern 3rds.

Old Hales fielded a large squad with a mixture of youth and experience and just edged a well-fought game, running in four tries in a good second half display. Tries came from Steven Moore (2), Aidan Blizzard, Steve Deakin (2) and Ryan Chance with Billy Taylor kicking a conversion.

DK Old Halesonians u-16s 45

OLD Halesonians u-16s travelled the short distance to Dudley Kingswinford RFC for their first match in two weeks and were keen to maintain their recent form.

The first try came after just four minutes from Henry Thomas, converted by Tom King.

Dylan De Sousa added two tries, both converted by Jack Law and Hales led 21-0.

Jacob Saul's try, converted by Law, increased the tally to 28 and by half-time it was 40-0 thanks to De Sousa scoring his hat-trick and Saul's second, converted again by Law.

The second half saw a number of substitutions by Old Hales and just one more score was added by Aiden Whibley.

Medal haul for martial artists



Halesowen Martial Arts Club's successful Unified World Championship medallists

HALESOWEN Martial Arts Centre had seven fighters qualify to represent England at the Unified World Championships in Italy – and all returned with a medal.

The contingent all train four or five days a week with Jason Charlesworth and he said he was proud all their hard work had paid off as the club came back with eight gold medals, three silver and three bronze.

Nine-year-old Kane Maylor was up first and defeated his opponent, before Luke Ashby, also nine, who travels down from Doncaster twice a week to train at the centre, saw off his German opponent.

Ten-year-old Tyler Richards from Telford,

who trains and travels three times a week to train with Jason and his instructors, gained two gold medals in points and light contact, Alfie Tromans, 11 from Quinton, defended his title and also added another to his haul, while 17-year-old Libby Smith managed to beat her Italian fighter for bronze.

Kyra Charlesworth, 11, from Lower Gorham, claimed a bronze despite suffering from a virus. But her 19-year-old brother Reuben held it together to win two more world titles to his growing haul.

Reuben out kicked and punched his Czech opponent, narrowly beating him at -74 kg and then impressively beat a strong-looking Italian.

Scarr's goal earns replay for Glassboys

Whitehawk 1 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE could welcome League One Northampton Town to Amblecote should the Glassboys negotiate their FA Cup first round replay.

The Glassboys secured the rematch against the National South side – but not before surviving the spectre of a ghost goal in Brighton.

With the clock ticking down at the Enclosed Ground, substitute Javier Favarel let rip with a rocket from the right corner of the box just as referee Robert Whittom blew the final whistle.

Replays proved the man in the middle had started to signal the end of the match as the ball dropped for Favarel but Whitehawk surrounded Whittom after riling out the strike. Home keeper Ross Flitney was sent off for his protestations.

The visitors started well against their higher-ranked opponents with Luke Benbow shooting wide during the opening exchanges.

But Stour's strong work kicking up Whitehawk's significant slope was undone on 12 minutes when veteran midfielder Glen Southam pinched possession from Junior Smikle on the corner of the box and sent a dipping drive over Matt Gould via the underside of the crossbar.

Undeterred, Gary Hackett's men kept plugging away.

Stour were on the front foot after the restart with Dan Scarr's effort gathered by Flitney following a goalmouth scramble. But Scarr did not have to wait long to get off the mark, firing into the ground and inside the far post after Chris Lait's centre had been headed to the edge of the box.

Stour host the replay on Monday.

Glassboys travel to Spennymoor for a rearranged game on Saturday as both team are out of the FA Trophy.

Anderson spot-on in victory for Yeltz

HALESOWEN Town 1 Coalville Town 0

HALESOWEN claimed a hard fought victory through Kaiman Anderson's early penalty.

The Yeltz started brightly with Anderson and Lee Chilton both denied by fine early saves from Coalville goalkeeper Matthew Coton. But leading striker Anderson stepped up to hit the winner from the penalty spot after being brought down by Kyle Bryant in the ninth minute.

Substitute Danny Bragoli almost doubled Halesowen's lead with three minutes remaining, only for Lee Torr to race back and clear off the line.

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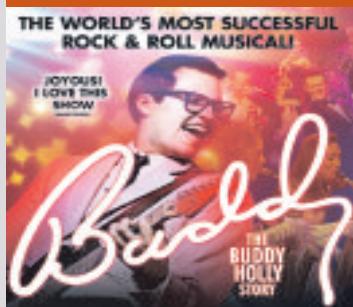
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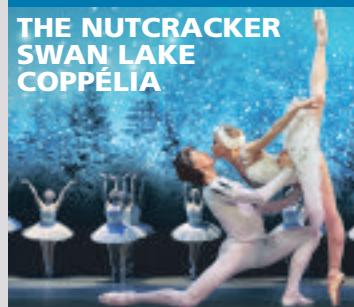
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THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE



TUE 31 JAN – SAT 4 FEB
BUDDY – THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY



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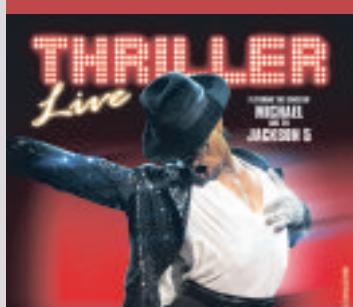
TUE 14 – SAT 18 FEB

ANITA AND ME
BY MEERA SYAL.
ADAPTED BY TANIKA GUPTA



TUE 21 – SAT 25 FEB

THRILLER LIVE



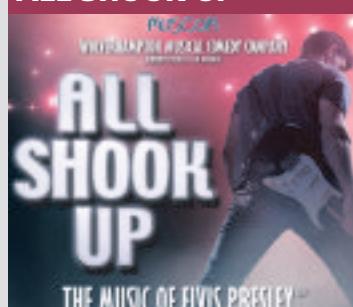
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SISTER ACT



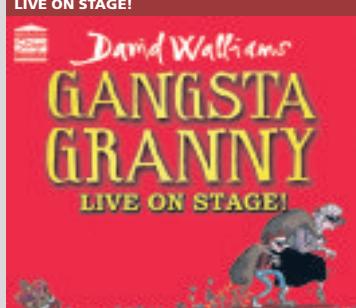
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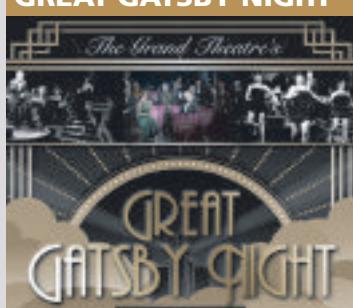
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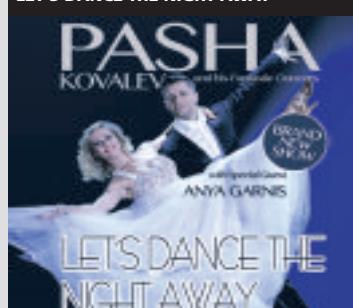
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SUN 9 APR

**PASHA KOVALEV
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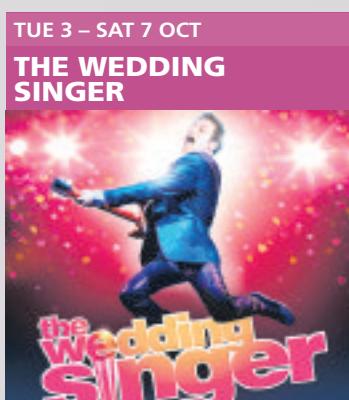
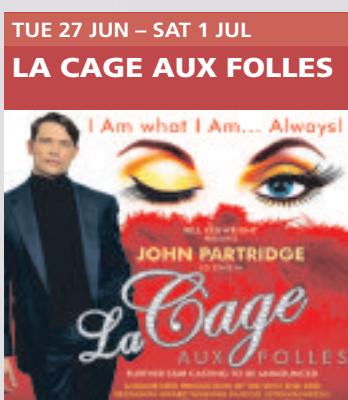
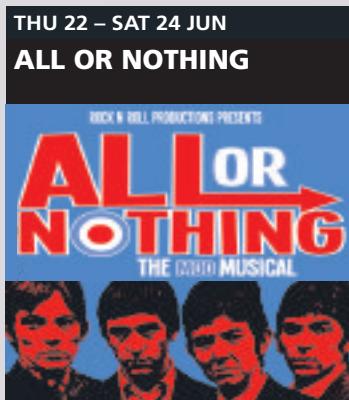
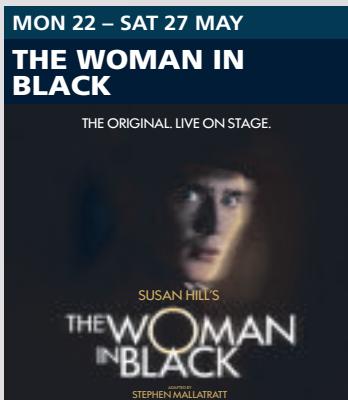
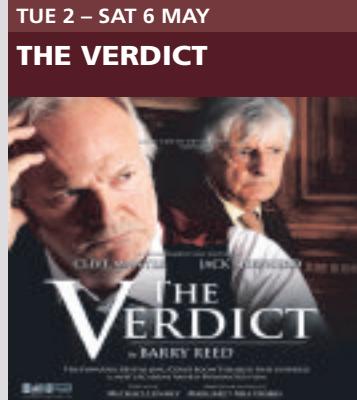
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